

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015
FALKIRK COUNCIL ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST FORM

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This is an application form which can be used to make an Asset Transfer request to Falkirk Council.

Any Community Body interested in making an Asset Transfer Request is advised to contact the Asset Team on strategicpropertyreview@falkirk.gov.uk before making the request so that we can discuss your proposal.

Please complete the asset transfer request form if the property/land is owned/leased/managed by Falkirk Council.

It is essential that you read the [Asset Transfer guidance](#) provided by the Scottish Government before making a request.

When completed, this form should be emailed to strategicpropertyreview@falkirk.gov.uk or sent to

The Asset Team

Falkirk Council

4 Stadium Way

Falkirk

FK2 9EE

Section 1: Information about the Community Transfer Body (CTB) making the request

1.1 Name of the CTB making the asset transfer request

Rainbow Muslim Women's Group

1.2 CTB address. This should be the registered address, if you have one.

Postal address:
Westfield Park Community Centre
Westfield Street
Falkirk

Postcode:
FK2 9DX

1.3 Contact details. Please provide the name and contact address to which correspondence in relation to this asset transfer request should be sent.

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Postal address:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

☒ We agree that correspondence in relation to this asset transfer request may be sent by email to the email address given above. *(Please tick to indicate agreement)*

You can ask Falkirk Council to stop sending correspondence by email, or change the email address, by telling them at any time, as long as 5 working days' notice is given.

- 1.4 Please mark an "X" in the relevant box to confirm the type of CTB and its official number, if it has one.

	Company and its company number is	
X	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and its charity number is	SC047758
	Community Benefit Society (BenCom) and its registered number is	
	Unincorporated organisation (no number)	

Please attach a copy of the CTB's constitution, articles of association or registered rules.

Please note that under The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, where a CTB is seeking ownership rather than a lease, the organisation must have at least 20 members. See the Scottish Government's Guidance for Community Transfer Bodies.

- 1.5 Has the organisation been individually designated as a community transfer body by the Scottish Ministers?

No ☒

Yes ☐

Please give the title and date of the designation order:

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- 1.6 Does the organisation fall within a class of bodies which has been designated as community transfer bodies by the Scottish Ministers?

No ☐

Yes ☒

If yes what class of bodies does it fall within?

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

Section 2. Information about the land and rights requested

2.1 Please identify the property/land to which this asset transfer request relates.

You should provide a street address or grid reference and any name by which the land or building is known. If you have identified the land on the relevant authority's register of land, please enter the details listed there.

It may be helpful to provide one or more maps or drawings to show the boundaries of the land requested. If you are requesting part of a piece of land, you must attach a map and give a full description of the boundaries of the area to which your request relates. If you are requesting part of a building, please make clear what area you require. A drawing may be helpful.

Details of Property:



Figure 1: Thornhill Community Centre Location



Figure 2: Aerial Overview



Figure 3: Exterior View



Figure 4: Building Layout (proposed)

Address:
 Thornhill Community Centre
 Thornhill Road
 Falkirk

Postcode:
 FK2 7AE

2.2 Please provide the UPRN (Unique Property Reference Number), if known.

UPRN: 136029150

Section 3. Type of request, payment and conditions

3.1 Please tick what type of request is being made:



for ownership (under section 79(2)(a)) - go to section 3A

☐

for lease (under section 79(2)(b)(i)) – go to section 3B

☐

for other rights (section 79(2)(b)(ii)) - go to section 3C

3A – Request for Ownership

What price are you prepared to pay for the land requested?

Proposed price: £1

Please attach a note setting out any other terms and conditions you wish to apply to the request.

3B – Request for Lease

What is the length of lease you are requesting?

How much rent are you prepared to pay? Please make clear whether this is per year or per month.

Proposed rent: £ per

Please attach a note setting out any other terms and conditions you wish to be included in the lease, or to apply to the request in any other way.

3C – Request for other Rights

What are the rights you are requesting?

Do you propose to make any payment for these rights?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, how much are you prepared to pay? Please make clear what period this would cover, for example per week, per month, per day?

Proposed payment: £ per

Please set out any other terms and conditions you wish to apply to the request.

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Section 4. Community Proposal

4.1 Please set out the reasons for making the request and how the land or building will be used.

This should explain the objectives of your project, why there is a need for it, any development or changes you plan to make to the land or building, and any activities that will take place there.

4.1.1 Objectives of Project

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has been a cornerstone of community empowerment in Falkirk for over two decades. Through food banks, educational programmes, cultural events, and inclusive support services, we have fostered unity across diverse ethnic backgrounds. As demand for our services grows, we envision a dedicated community hub — a vibrant, inclusive space where women and families from all walks of life can connect, learn, and thrive. This centre will not only streamline our operations but will serve as a beacon of hope, resilience, and opportunity for the wider community. Our proposal is more than a building — it is an investment in social cohesion, wellbeing, and the future of Falkirk's multicultural society.

Objectives



Expand Service Capacity: Establish a permanent, purpose-built hub to accommodate the growing demand for our programmes, eliminating barriers caused by venue limitations.



Strengthen Community Bonds: Create a welcoming space that brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, fostering mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and social harmony.



Ensure Long-Term Sustainability: Secure a community-owned asset to reduce reliance on rented venues, enabling financial stability and strategic growth.



Promote Safety and Inclusion: Offer a safe, accessible environment where women and children feel valued, supported, and empowered.



Advance Economic Empowerment: Provide vocational training, enterprise support, and employment pathways to help women achieve financial independence and contribute to the local economy.

Mission statement

Empowering Women, Enriching Communities.

Our mission is to uplift and inspire women — particularly those from ethnic minority and vulnerable backgrounds — to participate confidently in society. Through education, advocacy, and community-led initiatives, we aim to dismantle barriers, promote inclusion, and unlock potential. We believe in the transformative power of diversity and strive to build a future where every woman feels seen, heard, and empowered to shape her own path and contribute meaningfully to the community.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is well-positioned to take ownership of Thornhill Community Centre under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which supports the transfer of public assets to community-led organisations that deliver inclusive, sustainable, and locally responsive services. Our organisation exemplifies these principles through its extensive experience working across Falkirk and its commitment to fostering empowerment, well-being, and social connection for all.

Although our roots lie in supporting ethnic minority women, our work has grown to encompass a wide range of communities across Falkirk, including families, young people, older adults, and individuals facing social isolation or economic hardship. We have delivered programmes in various neighbourhoods — from wellbeing and food support to youth engagement, digital inclusion, and intergenerational activities — always shaped by local needs and open to all, regardless of background, age, gender, or ethnicity.

Our experience working across Falkirk is a strength, not a limitation. It has enabled us to build strong relationships with diverse communities, develop adaptable service models, and gain deep insight into the challenges and opportunities facing different areas. We bring this knowledge and network to Thornhill, with a clear intention to collaborate with local residents, groups, and stakeholders to co-create a space that reflects their aspirations and priorities.

We have secured five years of unrestricted funding to support operational and repair costs, and we benefit from a large, active volunteer base that reflects the diversity of the wider Falkirk area. Our renovation plans — including solar panel installation, kitchen upgrades, and environmental enhancements — demonstrate our readiness to manage the building responsibly and sustainably. These improvements will ensure the centre is welcoming, accessible, and fit for purpose for all users.

Importantly, we maintain continuous dialogue with the communities we serve through surveys, open forums, and feedback sessions. This participatory approach ensures our services remain relevant and responsive. We are committed to extending this model to Thornhill, working in partnership with local people to ensure the centre becomes a vibrant, inclusive hub for everyone.

By acquiring Thornhill Community Centre, we will not only safeguard a vital community asset but also enhance its potential by drawing on our proven track record, inclusive ethos, and collaborative spirit. Our vision aligns fully with the goals of the Community Empowerment Act: to enable communities to shape their own futures and take ownership of the spaces that matter most to them.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is committed to building a model of community ownership that ensures its programmes and spaces are shaped by the people they serve. This approach goes beyond participation — it empowers individuals from all backgrounds to take an active role in decision-making, planning, and delivery. By involving local residents, volunteers, and partner organisations in shaping services, the group fosters a sense of shared responsibility, pride, and belonging. This inclusive model helps ensure that the group's work remains relevant, responsive, and rooted in the lived experiences of the community.

4.1.2 Why there is a need for your Project?

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group currently operates across multiple venues in Falkirk, including Westfield Community Centre, Thornhill Community Hall, Dalgrain Community Centre, and Trinity Church. While this flexible approach has allowed us to reach a wide range of beneficiaries, it also presents logistical challenges — including limited availability, fragmented service delivery, and the need to transport supplies between locations.

To address these challenges and better serve the community, the group is actively seeking to acquire a permanent base through the Community Asset Transfer process. Establishing a dedicated space would allow us to consolidate our programmes, expand our services, and create a welcoming hub that fosters inclusion, wellbeing, and community ownership.

We are open to exploring collaborative opportunities with other organisations who share our vision for a vibrant, inclusive community space. While past efforts to work with the former centre committee proved difficult, we are now engaging constructively with the current committee to identify shared goals and potential pathways forward.

Our aim is not only to secure a building, but to build a sustainable and inclusive future — one where the community has a permanent place to connect, grow, and thrive.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's future programmes are designed to create meaningful change across Falkirk by addressing both immediate needs and long-term empowerment. Initiatives such as the Chat and Chai Café and Community Kitchen will offer safe, welcoming spaces for affordable meals and social connection, helping to reduce isolation and food insecurity. These informal settings will also act as gateways to deeper engagement, allowing participants to build trust and confidence before accessing further support. Programmes like the Wellbeing Workshops and Skills Exchange will promote mental health, self-esteem, and practical skill development, empowering individuals to take active roles in their communities.

Importantly, the group's approach is inclusive and community wide. While its roots lie in supporting ethnic minority women, the planned programmes are open to all residents, regardless of age, gender, or background. The Youth Engagement Programme and English Language/Digital Literacy Classes will help bridge generational and educational gaps, equipping participants with essential life skills and fostering mutual understanding. By creating spaces where diverse groups can come together, learn, and support one another, the group aims to strengthen community cohesion and resilience across Falkirk.

The overall impact of these programmes will be to bring diverse communities together, break down social and cultural barriers, and tackle discrimination through shared experiences, dialogue, and inclusive participation. By fostering empathy, respect, and collaboration, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group will contribute to a more connected, equitable, and welcoming Falkirk for all.

We are seeking to acquire Thornhill Community Hall to establish a permanent, inclusive space that serves not only the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group but the wider Falkirk community. This centre will be a vibrant, welcoming hub where people of all backgrounds — women, families, young people, the elderly, and local organisations — can come together to connect, learn, and grow.

Thornhill Community Centre already hosts a variety of valuable activities, including Zumba classes, music lessons, art workshops, kettlecise, church-led sessions, and mental and emotional wellbeing programmes. We fully envisage these existing activities continuing and thriving. Our vision is to build on this strong foundation by introducing new programmes — such as affordable skills training, a community café, and expanded support services — that respond to emerging needs and reflect the evolving aspirations of the community.

Our plans are shaped by formal research, practical experience, and deep engagement with local residents. We understand the community because we are part of it — and we are committed to ensuring that the centre remains responsive, inclusive, and co-designed with those it serves. As needs change, so too will our offerings. This will be a living, breathing space that adapts to support wellbeing, opportunity, and unity.

In today's climate, where anti-immigrant sentiment has sadly gained traction across the UK — and where Falkirk has witnessed distressing incidents including attacks on local mosques — the need for safe, inclusive spaces is more urgent than ever. Our centre will stand as a symbol of solidarity and resilience, actively working to bring communities together, foster understanding, and promote social harmony.

This is not just about acquiring a building — it is about creating a shared asset that reflects the diversity, strength, and hope of Falkirk's communities. A place where everyone feels welcome, supported, and empowered to contribute.

4.1.3 Will any Development/changes/modifications to the asset be required?

Initial Development Plan

As part of its next phase of growth, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group will undertake a series of practical renovations and improvements to establish a fully functional and welcoming community centre. The development plan includes:

- **Installation of solar panels** to reduce electricity costs and lower the centre's carbon footprint, supporting both environmental sustainability and financial efficiency.
- **Repainting and decorating the interior walls**, featuring children's artwork to create a bright, uplifting atmosphere that reflects community spirit and creativity.
- **Full renovation of the kitchen** to support food-based programmes such as the Community Kitchen and Chat and Chai Café. This will ensure the space is safe, efficient, and suitable for preparing and serving meals to large groups.
- **Addition of indoor and outdoor planters** to bring natural elements into the centre, promoting a calming and pleasant environment for visitors and participants.

These tangible improvements will enhance the functionality, accessibility, and atmosphere of the centre, enabling the group to deliver its programmes more effectively and create a space that truly belongs to the community.

4.1.4 What activities will take place?

There is currently a number of different lets that operate from the Thornhill Community Centre — we aim to continue these lets for the foreseeable future. These types of let, are indicative of the types of services and activities, that are required by the local community.

Ongoing Programmes

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group currently delivers a range of weekly sessions tailored to the needs of different community groups:

- **Working Women Group** – Monday evenings

Designed for women in employment, offering a space to connect, unwind, and engage in personal development activities.

- **Aspiring Mums and Balm's Group** – Wednesday afternoons

Focused on skill-building and social support for mothers with young children.

- **Life Skills Building Group** – Fridays

Aimed at women facing language barriers, this group promotes confidence, communication, and essential life skills.

- **Youth Group** – Friday evenings

For girls aged 12+, offering creative, educational, and wellbeing-focused sessions in a safe and supportive environment.

- **Elderly Group** – Weekly yoga sessions

Promoting physical and mental wellbeing for older women through gentle movement and mindfulness.

Future Plans

In addition to the five weekly sessions currently delivered by the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group, our future plans for Thornhill Community Centre include a combination of new and existing activities that reflect the diverse needs of the wider community.

Proposed New Activities:

- **Chat & Chai Café** – A warm, affordable breakfast café for elderly residents and families.

- **Affordable Skills Lessons** – Community-led workshops in sewing, cooking, baking, crochet, and more.

- **Food Bank & Parcel Delivery** – Continued support for families facing hardship.

- **Catering Services** – A social enterprise offering training and income generation.

- **Seasonal Fun Days** – Inclusive events during school holidays.

- **English Language & Digital Literacy Classes** – Empowering individuals to engage confidently in society.

- **Existing Activities to Continue:**

- Zumba classes

- Music lessons

- Art workshops

- Kettlecise fitness sessions

- Church-led classes

- Mental and emotional wellbeing programmes

As community needs evolve, we will remain responsive. Our programme will be shaped by ongoing dialogue with residents, ensuring that gaps are addressed and new opportunities embraced. This will be a shared space, co-designed with the people it serves.

1. Chat & Chai Café

The Chat & Chai Café will provide a welcoming and accessible space specifically designed for elderly individuals and families to socialize, relax, and enjoy breakfast and tea at reduced rates. By fostering a warm and inclusive environment, the café will encourage seniors to engage in conversations, share experiences, and develop meaningful social connections. Affordable pricing ensures broad accessibility, allowing all participants to benefit regardless of financial constraints.

2. Affordable Skills Lessons

The Affordable Skills Lessons program will provide accessible opportunities for individuals to learn practical and creative skills at minimal cost. Offerings include cooking (including international cuisines), baking, sewing, crochet, knitting, clay art, and other creative disciplines. Classes will be delivered by skilled community members operating small businesses and dedicated volunteers, ensuring high-quality instruction and active community engagement.

3. Food Bank and Parcel Delivery

The Rainbow Group has demonstrated sustained capacity in addressing food insecurity through the provision of both cooked meals and grocery distribution. During the Covid-19 restrictions, when access to community facilities was limited, members operated food banks from their homes and provided meals to asylum seekers with restricted access to resources.

At present, the group collaborates with Sustainable Thinking Scotland (Bo'ness) to distribute fresh produce, and with FareShare Central & South East Scotland (via Cyrenians' Good Food Programme) to collect and redistribute surplus food from supermarkets.

The proposed development seeks to expand this provision by establishing a food bank within the community hall kitchen, ensuring wider community access to essential food services.

4. Catering Services

The Catering Services programme will offer community-focused catering for events and activities, both generating revenue and providing practical skills training opportunities.

5. Seasonal Fun Days

Seasonal Fun Days will provide recreational and cultural activities during school holidays, designed to engage children, families, and wider community members.

6. English Language and Digital Literacy Classes

The English and Digital Literacy programme will provide structured learning opportunities to improve communication skills and digital competence for adults, particularly those from minority or disadvantaged backgrounds.

4.1.5. If the asset is to be used by the public, please provide details of lettings policy and opening times.

Pricing

Hall Let Prices

We have carried out extensive checks on the prices being charged by my main competitors and have based our prices on being competitive with them.

Main Hall	£15 per hour
Kitchen (Renovated)	£10 per hour
Pavilion1 (Multipurpose Room)	£12 per hour
Pavilion 2 (Meeting Room)	£10 per hour

Party Packages

Packages	Cost
Party Package 1 3 Hours Kitchen and Hall	£65
Party Package 2 3 Hours Kitchen, Hall and Inflatables	£100

Lessons Prices

Packages	Price per Lesson (1.5 hours)	Price per Block of 6 lessons (Full term)
Sewing Class	£20	£100
Crochet Class	£15	£65
Cooking Class	£18	£95
Baking Class	£18	£95

4.1.6 What provision will be provided for people with disabilities?

The community centre is all on one level, and the centre is fully accessible. We will ensure that all activities, where possible, are accessible by all.

4.1.7 Any other relevant information?

Current activities organised by the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group:

Educational Trips and Opportunities for Children

We organise enriching educational outings during school holidays to support learning and family bonding. Recent trips have included:

- Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh
- Dynamic Earth Edinburgh
- Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- National Galleries of Scotland
- Stirling Castle
- Gymnastics programme (5 months)
- Recycling and environmental awareness workshops
- NHS dental and hygiene education sessions

These activities provide children with hands-on learning experiences while fostering community connections.

Recreational Activities For Families

To support wellbeing and social inclusion, we offer recreational trips and events for families and volunteers, including:

- Beach trips to St Andrews and Ayr
- Visits to Blair Drummond Safari Park and Almond Valley
- Seagull Trust boat cruise
- Eid in the Park (annual event)
- Edinburgh Christmas Market
- St Andrews Day celebration

These outings help reduce isolation and offer families affordable opportunities to relax and connect.

Training/Awareness Opportunities for Women

We deliver targeted training and awareness sessions to empower women with practical knowledge and skills. These include:

- Food Hygiene and Safety Certification
- Self-Defence Workshops (with Scottish Centre for Personal Safety)
- Additional Support Needs (ASN) Training
- Breast and Bone Health Awareness (with Braveheart Association)
- Democracy Workshop (delivered by BEMIS Scotland)
- Type 2 Diabetes Awareness
- Positive Parenting Courses
- Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Modules

These sessions are designed to improve health literacy, safety, and confidence, while promoting informed decision-making and community wellbeing.

These programmes reflect the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's commitment to delivering inclusive, responsive, and empowering services for women, children, and families. By combining regular sessions, educational outings, recreational activities, and targeted training, the group continues to foster wellbeing, build confidence, and strengthen community ties.

Looking ahead, the group is eager to expand its work and deepen its impact, particularly within the Thornhill Community Centre neighbourhood and surrounding areas. Establishing a permanent base would allow for greater consistency, accessibility, and visibility of services. The group is actively engaging with the current centre committee to explore shared opportunities — recognising that previous efforts to collaborate with the former committee were challenging, but hopeful that renewed dialogue will lead to positive outcomes.

Benefits of the proposal

4.2 Please set out the benefits that you consider will arise if the request is agreed to.

Local Authorities are permitted to dispose of property at less than market value where there are wider public benefits to be gained. This is set out in the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010. These public benefits are listed below.

In this section, please explain how the project will benefit your community, and others. Please refer to the Scottish Government [guidance](#) on how the Council will consider the benefits of a request.

Please explain how the project will benefit your community by detailing how your project will promote or improve:-

4.2.1. Economic development/income generation

ie. Please include details of any job creation or volunteering and training opportunities that will be available as a result of the Asset Transfer. Also details of how your organisation will involve the local community and of any incentives that may be available to encourage the local community to use the proposed services.

Community Benefit	Economic Development / Income Generation
Impact	We enhance employability among women by offering skill development and vocational training, leading to higher employment rates. Our reduced-price Skill Lessons offer individuals the opportunity to learn valuable skills at a significantly reduced cost, making education and personal development accessible to all. This includes a wide range of creative arts such as Cooking Classes for Global Cuisines, Crochet Classes, Knitting Classes, Sewing Classes, Clay Art Classes, and Baking Classes. These lessons are delivered by skillful community members running their small businesses and passionate volunteers who are happy to pass on their valuable hobbies for the welfare of the community. We create new jobs and stimulate local economies by encouraging and supporting women to start their own businesses. Ensuring fair wages for work done improves the economic conditions of families.
Impact	Women who earn and spend locally contribute to the economic vitality of their communities. We attract businesses and investments to the area by offering education and training, leading to a more skilled workforce. Promoting lifelong learning opportunities ensures that women can continuously improve their skills and adapt to changing economic conditions. Providing support services such as childcare and healthcare enables women to participate more fully in the economy. Empowering women economically reduces poverty levels and improves overall community wellbeing. Strengthening community ties through cultural and social activities creates a supportive environment for economic activities. Developing leadership skills among women leads to more effective community advocacy and economic planning. Our Skill Lessons help the community in several ways: gaining new skills enhances personal development and opens growth opportunities, both personal and professional. These lessons increase employability and empower women. lessons make creative education more accessible to individuals who might not otherwise afford such opportunities. Learning creative skills can help reduce stress, improve mental health, and boost overall emotional well-being by providing a platform for self-expression and relaxation. These lessons encourage social interaction and help create a sense of community, enabling individuals to connect with others who have similar interests and passions.
Benefit	£109,930

4.2.2. Regeneration

i.e. Please include details of whether your organisation will contribute to the physical regeneration of the area, and how your proposal will impact the regeneration of the area, in terms of volunteering or employment, giving examples.

Community Benefit Impact	Regeneration We are committed to revitalising our community building to create a vibrant hub for local activities and services. By making the building more energy-efficient, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint and lower energy costs. Enhancing the building's appearance will make it a welcoming and attractive space for all community members. We plan to help regenerate the nearby green spaces, creating beautiful and functional areas for recreation and relaxation. By bringing in investment into the community to help with community projects such as our community centre, and public spaces will enhance the quality of life and attract more residents and businesses. Promoting sustainable practices and green initiatives in and around the building will improve the local environment and attract eco-conscious businesses and residents.
Benefit	Engaging youth in educational and recreational programs will reduce anti-social behaviour and its environmental impact. Developing leadership skills among community members will empower them to take active roles in regeneration efforts. Ensuring that the voices of women and marginalized groups are heard in decision-making processes will lead to more inclusive and effective regeneration strategies. £57,646

4.2.3. Public Health

i.e. How likely is the proposal to improve the Public Health of the Community, in terms of **physical and mental health**, for example through volunteering, training, or taking part in activities, giving examples.

Community Benefit	Public Health
Impact	We empower women to make informed health choices by conducting health education workshops on topics such as nutrition, exercise, and disease prevention. Our Chat and Chai Café provides a welcoming space for elderly people and families to socialise and enjoy affordable tea and breakfast, reducing loneliness and enhancing mental well-being. It also offers financial relief during the cost-of-living crisis and strengthens social networks, especially for the elderly from all areas, including our ethnic minority community. We promote healthier lifestyles through campaigns on mental health, reproductive health, and chronic diseases. Our support groups help individuals manage stress and anxiety, while our stress management programmes, including mindfulness and relaxation exercises, improve overall mental wellbeing. Our Subsidised Skill Lessons make education and personal development accessible by offering creative arts classes at reduced costs. These lessons, delivered by skilled community members and volunteers, enhance personal development, reduce stress, improve mental health, and foster a sense of community. We promote healthy eating through cooking classes and nutritional education and encourage regular exercise with physical activity programmes. Our information sessions on prenatal and postnatal care ensure the health and wellbeing of mothers and babies. Our food bank and parcel delivery service, supports families and individuals with food provision. Continuing this service from the community hall will improve health, provide financial relief, and reduces food waste by distributing surplus food to deserving families. We engage in public health campaigns to address issues like smoking cessation, substance abuse, and domestic violence, and work with local health authorities to implement community-wide health initiatives.
Benefit	£225,223

4.2.4. Social Wellbeing

i.e. How will the proposal improve the Community's Social Well-Being and mental health, or how might it improve the learning offer and activities available in the area? Please give brief examples of these activities.

Community Benefit	Social Wellbeing
Impact	By organising social events and gatherings, we are able to foster a sense of community and belonging among members of our community, while encouraging volunteerism to enhance social cohesion and provide meaningful ways for individuals to contribute to their community. By establishing peer support groups we can provide emotional and practical support, helping individuals navigate personal challenges, and by creating mentorship programmes we can connect women with role models and advisers, fostering personal and professional growth. Hosting cultural celebrations and festivals we can promote cultural understanding and appreciation, strengthening community bonds, and offering recreational activities such as sports, arts, and crafts so as to improve mental health and provide opportunities for social interaction. Providing adult education classes can empower individuals with new skills and knowledge, enhancing their social and economic opportunities, and conducting workshops on various topics such as parenting, financial literacy, and personal development can improve overall wellbeing. Providing resources and support for parents can strengthen family units and improve child development outcomes, and offering affordable and accessible childcare services can enable parents to participate more fully in the workforce and community activities. We engage in advocacy efforts to address social issues and promote equality which can empower community members to drive positive change, and developing leadership skills among women can enhance their ability to advocate for themselves and their communities.
Benefit	£301,638

4.2.5. Environmental Wellbeing / Environmental Benefits

i.e. Will the proposal bring green / environmental benefits and / or have an impact on the local environment? Will it help mitigate the effects of climate change? If so please give details.

Community Benefit	Environmental Wellbeing / Environmental Benefits
Impact	We are raising awareness and encouraging environmentally friendly behaviors by conducting workshops and seminars on sustainable living practices, such as reducing waste, recycling, and conserving energy. We will aim to directly improve the local environment by implementing initiatives like community clean-up days and recycling programs. Educating the community about energy conservation techniques and the benefits of using energy-efficient appliances reduces overall energy consumption.

Impact	Supporting the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, decreases reliance on fossil fuels and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which we will look to embed within our community building. Running campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation encourages more sustainable water use practices. Promoting the use of sustainable transportation options, such as biking, walking, and public transit, reduces air pollution and traffic congestion. Providing education on the impacts of climate change and ways to mitigate its effects empowers the community to act. Having a community building under community ownership means we can create a dedicated space for these activities, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. This enables us to have a greater impact on environmental wellbeing by providing a hub for sustainable initiatives and a place where the community can come together to learn, share, and implement eco-friendly practices. By working with other Third Sector organizations, such as Sustainable Thinking Scotland In Bo'ness, we distribute fresh produce among deserving families, and we collect food weekly from supermarkets to redistribute it to those in need. Having worked so well previously and currently with limited resources and space, the group aims to continue running the food bank from the community hall, which will be open for the wider community. This will positively impact on the community by providing nutritional support, offering financial relief to deserving individuals and families during the cost-of-living crisis, collecting surplus food and distributing it among deserving families.
Benefit	£81,777

4.2.6. Does your project contribute to the reduction of inequalities?

i.e. Will the proposal enable the community to access activities not otherwise available; will these activities be available at an affordable rate; how will your organisation work with other local providers to reduce inequalities?

While Falkirk hosts a number of community organisations and service providers, few are specifically tailored to the needs of ethnic minority women and families. Existing groups often focus on broader community engagement or single-issue support, such as food banks, youth services, or faith-based initiatives. These organisations may offer valuable resources, but they frequently lack the cultural sensitivity, language accessibility, and gender-specific programming that the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group provides.

The group's unique positioning — as a women-led, culturally inclusive organisation rooted in lived experience — allows it to fill a critical gap in local service provision. Rather than competing directly, the group seeks to complement existing efforts through collaboration, referrals, and shared use of space and resources. Its focus on empowerment, wellbeing, and social connection across diverse communities makes it a vital contributor to Falkirk's evolving support landscape.

4.2.7 Will local people be engaged in the use and management of the Asset?

A "community of interest" may not represent the people living near to the asset. Please provide evidence of how local people and communities will be engaged in the use and management of the asset, and how they have been consulted.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is committed to building a model of community ownership that ensures its programmes and spaces are shaped by the people they serve. This approach goes beyond participation — it empowers individuals from all backgrounds to take an active role in decision-making, planning, and delivery. By involving local residents, volunteers, and partner organisations in shaping services, the group fosters a sense of shared responsibility, pride, and belonging. This inclusive model helps ensure that the group's work remains relevant, responsive, and rooted in the lived experiences of the community.

Ownership will be encouraged through regular feedback sessions, community forums, volunteer development, and opportunities for co-designing activities. The group will also explore forming a community advisory panel to guide strategic decisions and ensure diverse voices are heard. Importantly, this plan is not limited to ethnic minority women — it is open to all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, or background. By creating space for collaboration and leadership across different groups, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group aims to strengthen social bonds, build local capacity, and promote long-term sustainability.

Ultimately, the community ownership model will help break down barriers, challenge discrimination, and bring people together around shared goals. It will transform the group from a service provider into a community anchor — one that reflects the values, needs, and aspirations of Falkirk's diverse population.

4.2.8 How will you monitor whether the Asset Transfer is benefiting the community?

ie. Will you survey the users / invite feedback / compare user numbers with a baseline etc

Measuring Impact

To ensure our services remain effective and responsive, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group will monitor hall usage and programme participation on a quarterly and annual basis, with the goal of increasing overall usage by 50% within the first two years. Attendance across all activities — including the café, workshops, and classes — will be tracked and evaluated against our organisational objectives to ensure alignment with our mission to engage and support the wider community.

We will maintain comprehensive records covering attendance figures, membership levels, social media engagement, and website traffic. In addition, we will assess our social impact by collecting demographic data of service users, gathering feedback on health and wellbeing outcomes, and documenting how our programmes contribute to reducing isolation and improving quality of life. This evidence-based approach will allow us to continuously refine our services and ensure they meet the evolving needs of Falkirk's diverse population.

4.2.9 Any other relevant information?

Impact of Future Programmes

The impact of our future programmes will be far-reaching — socially, economically, and emotionally. By combining new initiatives with existing community-led activities, we will create a centre that is inclusive, empowering, and resilient.

Social Cohesion & Community Building

Our centre will actively bring communities together, fostering understanding, solidarity, and mutual respect. It will be a place where difference is celebrated, and where people from all backgrounds can build relationships and find common ground.

Health & Wellbeing

Our programmes will support physical and emotional wellbeing through fitness classes, mental health workshops, and nutritious meals.

Economic Empowerment

Skills lessons and catering services will provide training and pathways to employment, helping individuals gain independence and contribute to the local economy.

Education & Inclusion

Language and digital literacy classes will empower people to access services and engage in civic life.

Environmental Sustainability

Our food bank and parcel delivery service will reduce food waste, and our renovation plans include solar panels and green spaces.

Restrictions on use of the land

- 4.3 If there are any restrictions on the use or development of the land, please explain how your project will comply with these.

Restrictions might include, amongst others, environmental designations such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI), heritage designations such as listed building status, controls on contaminated land or planning restrictions.

No known restrictions

Negative consequences

- 4.4 What negative consequences (if any) may occur if your request is agreed to?
How you propose to minimise / reduce these?

You should consider any potential negative consequences for the local economy, environment, or any group of people, and explain how you could reduce these.

Potential Negative Consequences

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has carefully considered the potential challenges of taking over the building through a Community Asset Transfer and has developed strategies to minimise their impact.

One major concern is the cost of necessary repair work. To address this, the group has secured unrestricted funding to cover running costs for the next five years, which can be allocated toward essential renovations. Additionally, high utility costs have been identified as a risk, but the planned installation of solar panels will significantly reduce long-term energy expenses and support environmental sustainability.

There is also a risk of insufficient demand to sustain hall usage and generate income. To mitigate this, the group will implement a strong outreach and marketing strategy, build partnerships, and offer flexible, inclusive programming to attract a wide range of users. The success of the proposal also relies heavily on volunteer involvement. Fortunately, the group already benefits from a large and active volunteer base, with most current activities managed by volunteers, and plans are in place to maintain and grow this support.

Operational concerns such as increased traffic and noise due to higher usage have also been considered. The centre's central location makes it accessible by public transport, and members are encouraged to carpool to reduce congestion. In the event of noise complaints, the group will take all concerns seriously and respond promptly with appropriate actions to maintain good relations with neighbours.

Capacity to deliver

- 4.5 Please show how your organisation will be able to manage the project and achieve your objectives.

This could include the skills and experience of members of the organisation, any track record of previous projects, whether you intend to use professional advisers, etc.

4.5.1 Has your organisation or any of its members managed projects or owned / leased property/land prior to this?

Yes X

No

The organisation has successfully managed a range of different projects in the past. The group has successfully organised, managed, and delivered educational trips during school holidays – from the Royal Botanic Gardens to Stirling Castle; and recreational trips for the whole family – from beach trips to Ayr and St Andrews, to a day spent at the Edinburgh Christmas Market.

Please provide details of:

4.5.2 Skills and experience of the members of the organisation

About Us

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is a long-established, community-led organisation dedicated to supporting women and families across Falkirk and surrounding areas. Founded over two decades ago, the group has grown organically in response to the evolving needs of the local community, with a particular focus on those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

At its heart, the group exists to create safe, inclusive spaces where women can connect, learn, and thrive. Through a wide range of social, educational, and wellbeing-focused activities, the organisation fosters empowerment, reduces isolation, and promotes active participation in community life.

What began as a small grassroots initiative has developed into a trusted and respected charity, known for its welcoming environment, responsive programming, and strong community relationships. The group's work is driven by a deep understanding of the barriers many women face — whether cultural, linguistic, economic, or social — and a commitment to breaking those barriers through compassion, collaboration, and practical support.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group continues to evolve, guided by its mission to uplift women, strengthen families, and build bridges across communities. With a growing membership, dedicated volunteers, and a clear vision for the future, the group is well-positioned to expand its impact and build a lasting legacy of inclusion and empowerment.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is governed by a diverse and experienced Board of Trustees, each bringing valuable skills and perspectives to the organisation. The committee operates under a two-tier SCIO structure and is supported by part-time staff and a strong volunteer base.

• Chair –

has led the group for over 15 years, with more than 25 years of volunteering experience. Her leadership is rooted in community service and entrepreneurship, and she has been recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions.

• Treasurer –

brings 20 years of business experience and a decade of committee service. She oversees financial management with a practical, detail-oriented approach that ensures fiscal responsibility and transparency.

• Secretary –

supports the charity's daily operations with strong organisational skills and reliability. Her background in business enables her to manage administrative tasks efficiently.

• Vice Chair –

has run her own company for 30 years and contributes strategic insight and leadership to the board. Her experience strengthens the group's long-term planning and community outreach.

holds qualifications in Social Work and IT, and has worked with several third sector organisations. She supports financial oversight and brings a deep understanding of community needs.

holds a BA (Hons) in English and has experience in education. She combines strong interpersonal skills with a commitment to supporting both administrative functions and community engagement

🔗 Committee Strengths and Operational Support (skills audit matrix attached on appendix 1)

Beyond the formal trustee roles, the charity benefits from two part-time staff and over 20 active volunteers, each contributing a wide range of practical, creative, and interpersonal skills. Volunteers support programme delivery, event planning, administration, and community outreach, with many trained in Food Hygiene, First Aid, and PVG certification.

The Board of Trustees includes professionals and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds, enabling well-rounded decision-making and strategic planning. Their experience in project management, budgeting, and stakeholder engagement ensures the charity operates efficiently and sustainably.

Trustees and volunteers alike are deeply committed to the charity's mission, often contributing their time and expertise outside of formal responsibilities. Their entrepreneurial insight and connections with local tradespeople also support the maintenance and enhancement of physical spaces used by the group.

Financial oversight is maintained through diligent record-keeping and collaboration with an external accountant to ensure compliance with OSCR requirements.

This collective strength — combining governance, operational capacity, and community dedication — positions the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group to manage future growth and the responsibilities of asset ownership with confidence.

4.5.3 Do you intend to use professional advisors? Please provide details.

We will carry out the necessary record-keeping/book-keeping for the centre. We instruct an Accountant to independently examine our accounts before we complete our annual Return with OSCR.

We will instruct a solicitor to negotiate our agreement with Falkirk Council.

We intend to instruct several surveyors, architects, etc, as the need arises.

4.5.4 Do you currently lease/manage a property from Falkirk Council? If yes, please provide details.

We do not currently lease or manage a property direct from Falkirk Council at present. We aim to take on an FRI Licence of the Thornhill Community Centre, which will give us invaluable hands-on experience of managing and operating a community asset.

4.5.4 Please detail how you plan to manage the building?

For example opening and closing the building / managing lets / will you have staff etc?

The centre will be managed by a dedicated group of volunteers, who will manage the opening and closing of the building, and booking of lets. The committee is considering funding a project worker post in the future, but in the interim all projects will be managed by the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group staff and volunteers.

4.5.5 Please provide any other information you think may be relevant.

Score (0-3)

- 3 = Significant experience and expertise.
- 2 = Some knowledge or experience.
- 1 = Interested in learning more.
- 0 = No knowledge or experience.

Skill Category	Description	Chair	Treasurer	Secretary	Vice Chair	Vice Treasurer	Vice Secretary
Governance	Understanding of charity governance, compliance, and legal responsibilities.	3	1	2	2	1	2
Finance	Financial management, budgeting, and understanding charity accounts.	3	3	2	2	3	2
Fundraising	Experience in raising funds through grants, events, or individual donations.	3	3	2	3	3	2
Legal Knowledge	Familiarity with charity, employment, and contractual law.	2	1	2	2	2	2
Strategic Planning	Ability to contribute to long-term strategy development and execution.	3	2	3	3	3	1
HR & People Management	Knowledge of recruitment, staff management, and volunteer coordination.	2	2	3	3	3	3
Marketing & Communications	Skills in PR, marketing strategies, and digital communication.	2	2	2	2	1	2
Community Engagement	Understanding of the needs of the local community and stakeholder management.	3	3	3	3	2	3
Digital & IT	Awareness of digital trends and IT solutions for charities.	1	1	1	1	2	2
Risk Management	Identifying and mitigating risks to the organization.	3	2	3	1	2	2
Leadership & Collaboration	Ability to work collectively, inspire others, and lead initiatives.	3	3	3	3	2	2
Total Score		28	23	26	25	24	23

gFigure 5: Skills Audit

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has consistently been recognised for its outstanding contributions to community development, inclusion, and wellbeing. These accolades reflect the dedication, innovation, and impact of our work over the past two decades.

- **CVS Falkirk Volunteer Engaging Organisation Award – Winner (2016)**

Honoured for our commitment to creating meaningful volunteer opportunities and fostering a culture of community-led service.

- **SCVO Scottish Charity Awards – Runner-Up (2017)**

Acknowledged as one of Scotland's most impactful charities, demonstrating excellence in grassroots leadership and programme delivery.

- **CEMVO Scotland Ethnic Minority Awards – Nominee (2018)**

Celebrated for our role in empowering ethnic minority women and promoting diversity and inclusion across Falkirk.

- **British Muslim Awards – Community Group of the Year Winner (2022)**

National recognition for our transformative work in bridging communities, supporting vulnerable groups, and championing social cohesion.

- **CVS Falkirk Volunteer's Week – Outstanding Achievement in Health & Wellbeing (2024)**

Awarded for our innovative and inclusive health and wellbeing programmes that have improved lives and reduced isolation.

These honours not only validate our mission but also inspire us to continue striving for excellence. They serve as a testament to the power of community-led action and the strength of women working together to build a better future.

Section 5. Level and nature of support

5.1 Please provide details of the level and nature of support for the request, from your community and, if relevant, from others.

This could include information on the proportion of your community who are involved with the request, how you have engaged with your community beyond the members of your organisation and what their response has been. You should also show how you have engaged with any other communities that may be affected by your proposals.

5.1.1. What community engagement has taken place to help develop your business plan? Please provide evidence, for example any completed surveys, questionnaires, letters of support, minutes of public meetings etc.

Community Engagement

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has cultivated strong, diverse community engagement over the past two decades, involving people of all ages, backgrounds, and faiths. Our programmes consistently attract high levels of participation, reflecting the trust and connection we have built within the community.

During the pandemic, our group played a vital role in supporting the wider community, and our annual Eid in the Park events have become a symbol of unity — bringing together people from different cultures and faiths in celebration and harmony.

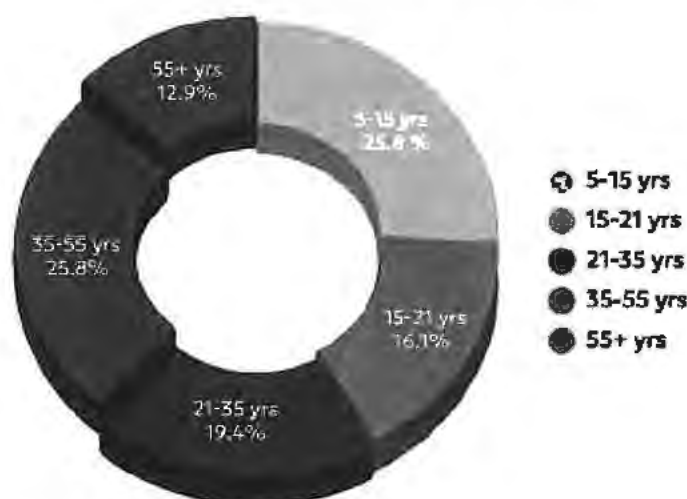
To inform our plans for acquiring Thornhill Community Centre, we conducted a community survey — shared both directly and via social media — to gather feedback from a broad cross-section of residents. The responses were overwhelmingly supportive, with many highlighting the need for a central, accessible space that could host a variety of activities and serve as a consistent point of connection.

We are committed to ensuring that the centre remains community-led and responsive. As needs evolve, we will continue to engage residents through surveys, feedback sessions, and open forums. Our goal is to create a space that reflects the community's voice — not just at the point of acquisition, but throughout its future.

In light of recent challenges — including rising anti-immigrant sentiment and distressing incidents such as attacks on local mosques — the importance of safe, inclusive spaces cannot be overstated. Thornhill Community Centre will be a place where people feel welcome, respected, and empowered. It will stand as a beacon of unity and resilience, actively working to bring communities together and promote social harmony.

Below are the stats of the active group members benefiting from the groups.

Community Engagement by Age Group



During the pandemic the group has worked actively for the wider community, hence there is a positive approach of the wider community towards the group.

In addition to this, the annual Eid in the Park event also engages people from from a wide range of backgrounds, therefore breaking the cultural barriers and bringing in social harmony.

To better understand the views and expectations of both our members and the wider community, we carried out a survey to gather feedback on the idea of acquiring a community building. The survey was shared directly with members and also posted on social media to reach a broader audience. This allowed us to capture a range of perspectives, ensuring that the voices of those who regularly engage with our work, as well as those who may benefit in the future, were heard.

How do you feel about the rainbow group acquiring its own premises to hold sessions and events?
Will you be able to attend more sessions if the location is central falkirk?

35 responses

Summary of Responses

The majority of respondents expressed strong support for the charity acquiring its own community building. Many highlighted that a dedicated, central location—particularly in Falkirk—would make it easier and more convenient to attend sessions, with improved access via local transport. Several participants noted that having all activities and resources in one place would increase attendance, encourage punctuality, and provide greater consistency in service delivery. Respondents also emphasized the social benefits, stating that such a space would help people meet, share experiences, and strengthen the sense of community.

Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the idea as exciting, helpful, and a valuable opportunity for the group's future.

what activities/programmes would you like to see if we have our own premises?

35 responses

Summary of Responses

Participants suggested a wide variety of activities for the new premises, with the most popular being yoga, exercise/fitness classes, cooking and baking sessions, crafts, and health and well-being workshops. Many also requested personal development opportunities, parenting sessions, and social gatherings such as tea/coffee chats. Some respondents emphasized the importance of children's activities during school holidays and weekend or evening events to make attendance easier for working families. Interest in outdoor activities, sewing/knitting, Zumba, and stalls or community events was also highlighted. Overall, responses show a strong demand for a mix of physical, creative, educational, and social activities, building on what the group already offers but with more variety, frequency, and accessibility.

Will it make a difference if there is a designated space for all sessions of the group?

35 responses



Survey responses gathered during the planning phase show strong support for the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's vision to establish a permanent community space. A significant majority of respondents expressed a clear need for inclusive, affordable, and culturally sensitive services in Falkirk, particularly those that promote wellbeing, social connection, and skill development. Many participants highlighted the importance of having a safe and welcoming environment where people from all backgrounds can come together, share experiences, and access support without barriers.

The feedback also revealed a strong appetite for the proposed programmes — including food provision, wellbeing workshops, youth engagement, and language/digital literacy classes — with respondents noting that these would fill critical gaps in existing local services. Importantly, the survey showed that the wider community, not just ethnic minority women, is eager to participate and contribute. This reinforces the group's commitment to inclusivity and community ownership, and confirms that the proposed centre has the potential to become a valued and unifying space for all residents of Falkirk.

Impact Statements from Users

The following impact statements reflect the voices of our users, highlighting the tangible outcomes and changes they have seen.

"The group has given me a place to look after my health through yoga and wellbeing sessions, but more importantly, it's where I've found friends and a real sense of belonging."

"I've learned new skills in the cooking workshops and met people I'd never have connected with otherwise; the group has made me feel part of a community."

"Before I joined the group, I often felt lonely and cut off from others. Taking part in activities like yoga and the coffee and chat sessions has given me a reason to get out of the house, meet new people, and build friendships. Having this safe and welcoming space has made a huge difference to my mental health. I feel happier, more connected, and supported by a community that understands me."

"Attending the sessions has improved my confidence and wellbeing, and I now feel less isolated because I have a supportive group around me."

Feedback from users highlights the transformative impact of the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's services, with many expressing how the programmes have helped reduce isolation, build confidence, and foster a sense of belonging. Participants consistently noted that the group provides a safe and welcoming space where they feel heard, supported, and empowered. The activities have not only improved individual wellbeing but also strengthened community ties, creating opportunities for learning, friendship, and mutual support across diverse backgrounds.

5.1.2 Have you consulted with other local stakeholder groups or agencies? Please provide evidence.

We have worked with CVS Falkirk & District, who have supported the group with drafting the business plan, finances, governance support, amongst other things.

We maintain close contact with Falkirk Council around the provision of school holiday food and activities.

We have received a number of letters of support from Braveheart, FEL, Sustainable Thinking Scotland, and others.

5.1.4 Have you been in contact with any other communities or community groups that may be affected? Please give details.

We have engaged with the community, the current users of the centre, potential future users of the centre, and the current management committee of the centre.

5.1.5 Please provide any other information you think may be relevant.

Challenging our world for the better
Project for animals

FEL



FEL Scotland have had an active relationship with Falkirk's Rainbow Muslim Women's Group (RMWG) for several years, [REDACTED] and her team have always been passionate about sustainability and equipping their community with resources, skills, conversations and funding to develop their own connection with nature, wellbeing and the planet.

One of our key collaborations with RMWG was within our Falkirk Food Futures project, which has spanned across 4 years of work funded by Scottish Government's Community Renewal Fund and then the Shared Prosperity Fund. RMWG have been in receipt of a small grant from this project, which they delivered over and beyond what was promised within their application. A key impact of their project was provision of healthy and delicious free food in a dignified manner. It helped people to come together, cook, eat and build connections across workshops, festivals and events. We always felt that the grant was in safe hands and communication was there to reassure us. Their group has also attended workshops as part of our Falkirk Food Futures Education Programme. Then 3 blocks of plant-based cooking sessions with different demographic groups which meet under the RMWG which has furthered this initial impact and skills within their volunteers.

FEL Scotland have been invited to collaborate on several community events, where the RMWG have provided us with catering, include community meals with Friends of Scottish Settlers, and community festivals in Bainsford & Langlees and Denny. Often celebrating the rich cultural diversity within the RMWG we've enjoyed different national dishes, and vegetarian/vegan cooking which has always been a key element to these events and brought folks together around shared good food and experiences. The group deliver a catering service, to aid their fundraising efforts, commonly supporting our worldwide communities most suffering from climate change issues. It's a service we really value for our own events, and again is delivered really professionally and with great feedback from guests.

Recently our climate team have been invited in to facilitate important discussions around adaptation, which the group again were very interested and welcoming. It's important to us that information and resources are shared with everyone in our community, and that we are inclusive with the voices and experiences heard. That is a feeling shared by RMWG and it creates a positive working relationship for us all.

We are witnesses of their spirit of collaboration, taking their part in the pantry and food redistribution network in Falkirk, partnering with organisations like The Conservation Volunteers, Sustainable Thinking Scotland, Falkirk's Mental Health Association, CVS Falkirk and NHS Forth Valley to name a few, improving Falkirk food security, mental health and wellbeing.

As a charity engaged in community development, it is appreciated to have a group so responsive to take on challenges and engage with climate outside of their already busy schedules. [REDACTED]'s welcoming nature and passion for her community is infectious. This is evident within the mass participation that each of their events and activities provide, both with the numbers of people attending and the generous amount of volunteer time devoted.

To have a space of their own would be a huge asset to them and the wider communities. It would be exciting to support them on this journey for a Community Cultural Hub in any way that we can. We are more than happy to give our letter of support for the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group as a well-established, inclusive and proactive group, and wish them the best of luck.

Figure 6: Letter of Support

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my strong support for the initiative by the Rainbow Muslim Women Group, a dynamic and dedicated women's group, to open a community multicultural hub. Having worked with the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group for several years, I have witnessed firsthand their unwavering commitment to empowering women, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and promoting social cohesion within our community.

The Rainbow Muslim Women Group has a proven track record of facilitating meaningful community outreach through various programmes, including educational workshops, health initiatives and cultural events. Their work has already played a pivotal role in bridging gaps between diverse groups, and I am confident that the establishment of a multicultural hub will further amplify their positive impact.

The proposed hub will not only serve as a welcoming space for Muslim women but will also be open to individuals from all backgrounds, offering a variety of activities that focus on cultural exchange, community building, and support services. This initiative will create an inclusive environment where individuals can engage, learn from one another, and share their diverse experiences, ultimately strengthening our community's social fabric.

I am particularly impressed by the leadership and vision demonstrated by the women of the Rainbow Muslims Women's Group. Their passion, organizational skills, and commitment to creating positive change make them exceptionally qualified to manage and operate such a hub. I believe their efforts will contribute significantly to the greater good of our community and beyond.

In light of the valuable work that the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has already accomplished and the potential impact of this new initiative, I wholeheartedly recommend their proposal for the multicultural hub. I am confident that it will be a vital resource that fosters unity, understanding, and support for all members of our diverse community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or

clarification. Sincerely,

Figure 7: Letter of Support

Avonbridge Community Association

~~Avonbridge Community Centre, Blaxter Road, Avonbridge, Falkirk, FK11 1JF~~

c/o [REDACTED]

Contact: treasurer@avonbridgehall.org.uk

In support of [REDACTED] and the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group

Avonbridge Community

Avonbridge is a village of ~700 people in a predominantly rural part of the Upper Braes ward, about 6 miles south of Falkirk. There are few services and facilities in the village itself, transport options are limited, and a high proportion of local children qualify for free school meals.

[REDACTED] and the Rainbow Ladies have helped our school-holiday activities for the last two years, first by providing freshly cooked snacks for a family "Pakora-fest" event in October-2023 and returning in 2024 to lead some fun scratch-cookery sessions. Through excellent food and gentle company, they have brought the best of the town and a taste of the world to this wee country place, made some good memories and a few new friends. We look forward to welcoming them at future community events in the village.

Personal

I first met [REDACTED] at a third-sector workshop on succession-planning (Ironically, 3 years later we are both still in post!) Since then, I have often encountered her and the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group volunteers doing all sorts of good throughout Falkirk, collaborating and helping local groups with a wide range of community projects.

Their hearts are huge, and I am sincerely in awe of what they achieve, both here and further afield. Please support them in any way you can.

Best regards,

Figure 8: Letter of Support



Sustainable Thinking Scotland C.I.C



sustainablethinking.scot

info@sustainablethinking.scot

[@SustainableThinkingScotlandCIC](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableThinkingScotlandCIC)

[@STS_CIC](https://www.instagram.com/STS_CIC)

Sustainable Thinking Scotland CIC,
Walled Garden, Keshod Estate,
Old Provost Road, Bo'ness, EH51 0PR

Chairperson - Rainbow Muslim Women's Group SCIO
Westfield Street, Falkirk, FK2 9DK

Dear [REDACTED]

It is with great pleasure that I write to express our full support for the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group in their efforts to secure a permanent community space in central Falkirk. Sustainable Thinking Scotland has had the pleasure of working closely with your organisation for some time, providing fresh produce from our STS Foodbank Farm, which you have generously distributed to Muslim families in Falkirk. Through our partnership, we have witnessed first-hand the positive impact that your group has on the local community, particularly in supporting vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly, women, children, and young girls.

The work you do organising educational and recreational sessions, providing a safe space for women and children, and offering support to those in need is invaluable. Given the growing demand for your services, we believe that a permanent venue will be a great asset, enabling you to provide a more structured and accessible service to the community. With your dedication and the strong team of volunteers behind you, I have no doubt that securing a community hub will allow you to continue improving the lives of local residents and expand your important work for many years to come.

On behalf of Sustainable Thinking Scotland, we offer our wholehearted support for your vision of creating a cultural hub at the heart of Falkirk. We believe that this space will be a key resource for the local community, and not only benefit those who already rely on your services but also offer a welcoming environment for even more individuals and families in need of the vital support that your group provides.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to continuing our partnership and supporting the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group in any way we can.

We are confident that with your dedication and the community's support, you will succeed in securing this essential space and we wish you all the best in your efforts.

Figure 9: Letter of Support

Section 6. Financial Viability of Project

Your Business Plan should contain full information about the financial viability of the project, evidencing that the organisation will be able to sustain the project in the long term.

Please submit

- at least 1 year's audited accounts to evidence your organisations financial stability (if available)
- where audited accounts are not available (for instance for new groups) please provide a bank statement.
- a projected 5 year income and expenditure account
- a cash flow forecast for the proposed asset transfer.

6.1 Please outline the Policies and Procedures your organisation has in place to govern the group's finances

We have submitted our accounts for all previous years that we have been operational to OSCR, complete and on time, as is required of registered SCIOs. Our finances are presented and scrutinised on a regular basis at our board meetings. We follow OSCR's Guidance and Good Practice for Charity Trustees (oscr.org.uk) to ensure we manage our finances correctly.

The rates for each of our spaces have been set for the coming year, and these will be reviewed yearly at our AGM.

Our 5-Year Cash Flow, accounts, have been submitted along with this application.

Income Forecast (Lets and Hires)

Lessons	Rate	Weekly	Yearly	Hire Income
Weekday Hires				
Main Hall	£15/hour	50*	2500	£37,500
Kitchen	£10/hour	20	1000	£10,000
Pavilion Room 1	£12/hour	10	500	£5,000
Pavilion Room 2	£10/hour	5	250	£2,500
Weekend Hires				
Package 1	£65/ 3hours	N/A	30	£1,800
Package 2	£100/ 3hours	N/A	25	£2,500
Pavilion Room 1	£35/3 hours	N/A	20	£700
Total per Year				£60,000

► Assumptions based on 42 hours per week usage of main Hall (as advised by the management committee) with a potential to increase to 50 hours. (50 weeks a year)

Our group activities to be held in Pavilion Hall when kitchen is not needed. Where our activities require kitchen usage (like cooking, baking classes and Breakfast Café) current hall users will be offered the renovated Pavilion Hall.

Weekend Hire's assumptions based on the availability of other community centres on weekends.

Profit Forecast (Chat & Chai Cafe)

Quarter	People attending per session	Price per breakfast	Cost per breakfast	Profit per Breakfast	Weekly profit	Quarterly Profit
Q1	30	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£150.00	£1,500.00
Q2	40	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£200.00	£2,000.00
Q3	45	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£225.00	£2,250.00
Q4	45	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£225.00	£2,250.00
Total Profit						£8,000.00

- Assumptions made on previous breakfast events arranged by the group.
 Breakfast sessions will be run bi-weekly (Monday and Thursday from 9:30 – 12:30)
 Estimated costs includes the direct volunteers' expenses.

We have conducted research into local breakfast prices and found that our reduced-price Breakfast Club offers meals at a rate substantially lower than the average cost of a dine-in breakfast in the area. While most sit-in breakfasts in Falkirk cost between £5.50 and £10.00, our café will serve a hearty, homemade morning meal for £4.50. This ensures our service remains affordable and accessible to the community, particularly for those affected by the rising cost of living.

Profit Forecast (Lessons)

Lessons	Max. Intake per Term (Persons)	Cost per Lesson	Cost per Term	Price per Term/Person	Income per Term	Profit per Term	Profit per Annum
Sewing	10	£55	£330	£100	£1,000	£670	£4,020
Crochet	10	£25	£150	£65	£650	£500	£3,000
Cooking/Baking	15	£20	£540	£95	£1,425	£885	£5,310
Total							£12,330

Section 7. Funding

7.1 Please outline how you propose to fund the price or rent you are prepared to pay for the land, and your proposed use of the land.

If you intend to apply for grants or loans you should demonstrate that your proposals are eligible for the relevant scheme, according to the guidance available for applicants.

7.1.1 Please show your calculations of the costs associated with the transfer of the land or buildings and your future use of it, including any redevelopment, ongoing, maintenance and the costs of your activities. All proposed income and investment should be identified, including volunteering and donations.

We have calculated the group's Board of Trustees volunteering hours based on monthly meetings of our board of trustees and all volunteering work carried out by the Board. A rate of £40/hour has been calculated, as illustrated in the appendices, for when the Board meets, and when individuals are acting in their capacity as a Trustee of the Board. We have also calculated the Volunteer hours based on the activities, events etc., that we have planned for the next few years, plus the day-to-day management of the hall.

Volunteering Hours	Rate	Hours	Year 1 Benefit	Year 2-3 Benefit	Year 4-5 Benefit
Board of Trustees	£40ph	1,560	£62,400	£131,428	£140,790
Volunteers	£12ph	3,016	£36,192	£76,214	£81,643
	Total	4,576	£98,592	£207,642	£222,433

Please see our Cash Flow for all our planned start up, ongoing, maintenance and planned redevelopment costs. Our Cash Flow also shows all proposed income and investment.

We aim to host fundraising events on a frequent basis to help generate additional income for the group.

All proceeds from lets will be used to continue our charitable purposes.

We recognise we will require a solicitor to review and negotiate the terms of our agreement.

7.1.2 Please supply details of what funding you have received so far, and of any conditions attached to it.

We have secured five years of unrestricted funding to support operational and repair costs, and we benefit from a large, active volunteer base that reflects the diversity of the wider Falkirk area. Our renovation plans — including solar panel installation, kitchen upgrades, and environmental enhancements — demonstrate our readiness to manage the building responsibly and sustainably. These improvements will ensure the centre is welcoming, accessible, and fit for purpose for all users.

This funding is from the Corra Foundation, supporting documentation will be sent with the application.

7.1.3 Please supply details of any funding you have applied for but have not yet received a response or decision. Please include timescales if known.

At present, we have no funding applications outstanding.

7.1.4 Details of any other funding you will have access to? i.e. voluntary contributions, borrowing etc.

We hold a significant level of reserves so that we are confident in our ability to take on the asset through community ownership.

Alongside the lettable income which will come from the centre, we also have our projected lesson and cafe income, we will also look to hold a number of fundraising events throughout the year, and we also welcome donations from the community, local businesses, and other groups. We receive regular donations from the community for the work that we do, and we do not foresee any reason why this would not continue.

As a SCIO, we will have access to all relevant financial products and services if required.

7.1.5 Please outline your funding strategy if you have one, as well as any other relevant information.

Post Funding Experience

Over the past decade, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has built a strong and trusted reputation among funders, consistently securing vital financial support to deliver meaningful impact across the community. In the last five years alone, we have successfully raised £201,118.42 from a diverse range of partners, including national charities, local authorities, and individual donors.

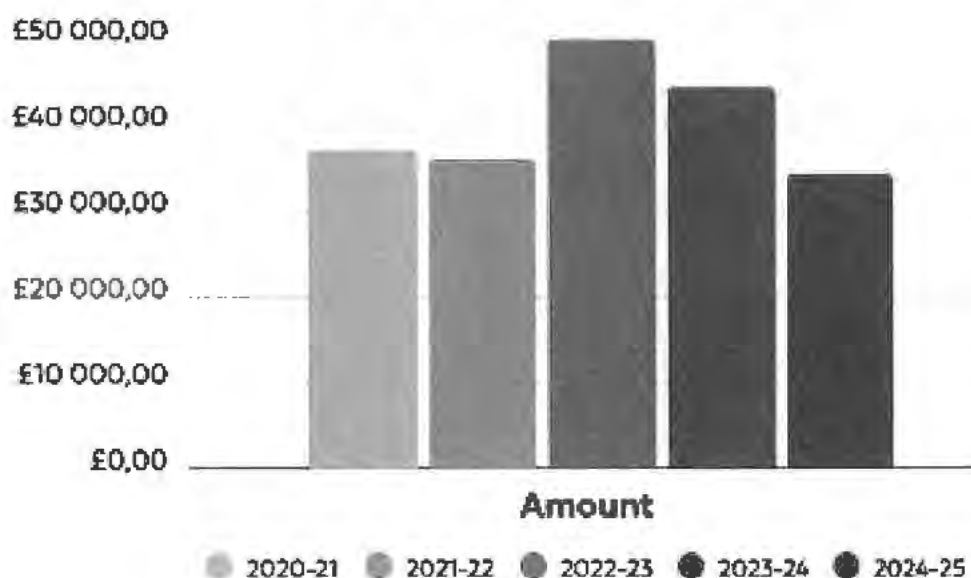
Our three largest funders — **Corra Foundation**, **CVS Falkirk**, and **Falkirk Council** — have provided sustained support, recognising the value and effectiveness of our programmes. Their continued investment reflects confidence in our governance, delivery, and ability to reach underserved communities.

In addition to institutional grants, we have benefited from **public donations**, **sector-specific funding**, and **community-led fundraising efforts**, all of which have contributed to our financial resilience and programme expansion.

These funds have been strategically invested in initiatives that promote **social inclusion**, **mental and physical wellbeing**, **skills development**, and **community cohesion**. From educational trips and training courses to food provision and cultural events, our funding has enabled us to respond to real needs with practical, inclusive solutions.

Our consistent fundraising success demonstrates not only our operational capacity but also the strength of our relationships with funders and the wider community. It positions us well for future growth and for taking on the responsibilities of managing a community-owned asset.

Annual Funds Raised (5 Years Record)



Section 8. Enablement Fund

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015
FALKIRK COUNCIL ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST FORM**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This is an application form which can be used to make an Asset Transfer request to Falkirk Council.

Any Community Body interested in making an Asset Transfer Request is advised to contact the Asset Team on strategicpropertyreview@falkirk.gov.uk before making the request so that we can discuss your proposal.

Please complete the asset transfer request form if the property/land is owned/leased/managed by Falkirk Council.

It is essential that you read the [Asset Transfer guidance](#) provided by the Scottish Government before making a request.

When completed, this form should be emailed to strategicpropertyreview@falkirk.gov.uk or sent to

The Asset Team

Falkirk Council

4 Stadium Way

Falkirk

FK2 9EE

Section 1: Information about the Community Transfer Body (CTB) making the request

1.1 Name of the CTB making the asset transfer request

Rainbow Muslim Women's Group

1.2 CTB address. This should be the registered address, if you have one.

Postal address:

Postcode:

1.3 Contact details. Please provide the name and contact address to which correspondence in relation to this asset transfer request should be sent.

Contact name: [REDACTED]

Postal address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

☐ We agree that correspondence in relation to this asset transfer request may be sent by email to the email address given above. *(Please tick to indicate agreement)*

You can ask Falkirk Council to stop sending correspondence by email, or change the email address, by telling them at any time, as long as 5 working days' notice is given.

- 1.4 Please mark an "X" in the relevant box to confirm the type of CTB and its official number, if it has one.

	Company and its company number is	
X	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and its charity number is	SC047758
	Community Benefit Society (BenCom) and its registered number is	
	Unincorporated organisation (no number)	

Please attach a copy of the CTB's constitution, articles of association or registered rules.

Please note that under The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, where a CTB is seeking ownership rather than a lease, the organisation must have at least 20 members. See the Scottish Government's Guidance for Community Transfer Bodies.

- 1.5 Has the organisation been individually designated as a community transfer body by the Scottish Ministers?

No ☒

Yes ☐

Please give the title and date of the designation order:

--

- 1.6 Does the organisation fall within a class of bodies which has been designated as community transfer bodies by the Scottish Ministers?

No ☐

Yes ☒

If yes what class of bodies does it fall within?

Section 2. Information about the land and rights requested

2.1 Please identify the property/land to which this asset transfer request relates.

You should provide a street address or grid reference and any name by which the land or building is known. If you have identified the land on the relevant authority's register of land, please enter the details listed there.

It may be helpful to provide one or more maps or drawings to show the boundaries of the land requested. If you are requesting part of a piece of land, you must attach a map and give a full description of the boundaries of the area to which your request relates. If you are requesting part of a building, please make clear what area you require. A drawing may be helpful.

Details of Property:

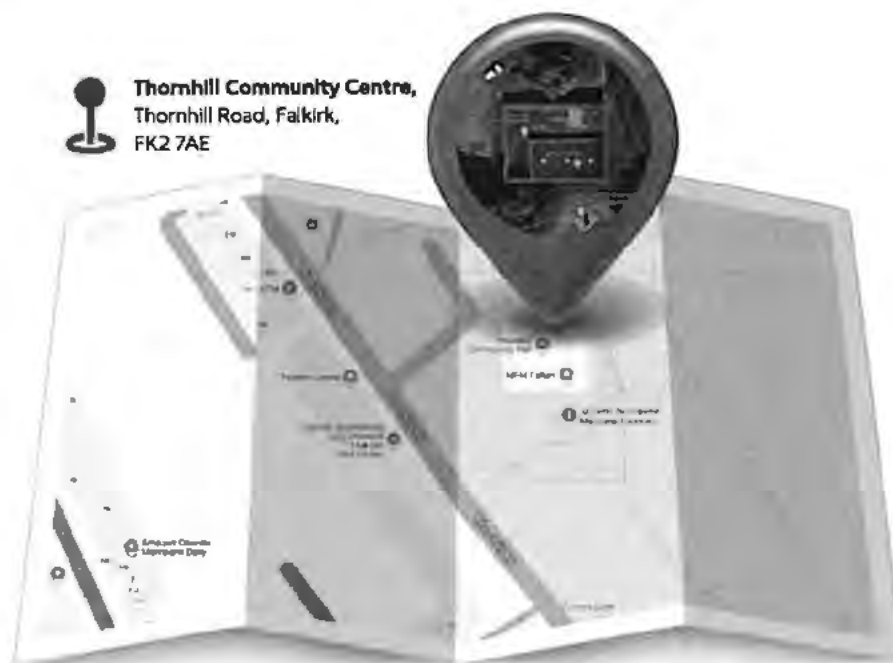


Figure 1: Thornhill Community Centre Location



Figure 2: Aerial Overview



Figure 3: Exterior View



Figure 4: Building Layout (proposed)

Address:
 Thornhill Community Centre
 Thornhill Road
 Falkirk

Postcode:
 FK2 7AE

2.2 Please provide the UPRN (Unique Property Reference Number), if known.

UPRN: 136029150

Section 3. Type of request, payment and conditions

3.1 Please tick what type of request is being made:



for ownership (under section 79(2)(a)) - go to section 3A

☐

for lease (under section 79(2)(b)(i)) – go to section 3B

☐

for other rights (section 79(2)(b)(ii)) - go to section 3C

3A – Request for Ownership

What price are you prepared to pay for the land requested?

Proposed price: £1

Please attach a note setting out any other terms and conditions you wish to apply to the request.

3B – Request for Lease

What is the length of lease you are requesting?

How much rent are you prepared to pay? Please make clear whether this is per year or per month.

Proposed rent: £	per
------------------	-----

Please attach a note setting out any other terms and conditions you wish to be included in the lease, or to apply to the request in any other way.

3C – Request for other Rights

What are the rights you are requesting?

Do you propose to make any payment for these rights?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, how much are you prepared to pay? Please make clear what period this would cover, for example per week, per month, per day?

Proposed payment: £	per
---------------------	-----

Please set out any other terms and conditions you wish to apply to the request.

--

Section 4. Community Proposal

4.1 Please set out the reasons for making the request and how the land or building will be used.

This should explain the objectives of your project, why there is a need for it, any development or changes you plan to make to the land or building, and any activities that will take place there.

4.1.1 Objectives of Project

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has been a cornerstone of community empowerment in Falkirk for over two decades. Through food banks, educational programmes, cultural events, and inclusive support services, we have fostered unity across diverse ethnic backgrounds. As demand for our services grows, we envision a dedicated community hub — a vibrant, inclusive space where women and families from all walks of life can connect, learn, and thrive. This centre will not only streamline our operations but will serve as a beacon of hope, resilience, and opportunity for the wider community. Our proposal is more than a building — it is an investment in social cohesion, wellbeing, and the future of Falkirk's multicultural society.

Objectives



Expand Service Capacity: Establish a permanent, purpose-built hub to accommodate the growing demand for our programmes, eliminating barriers caused by venue limitations.



Strengthen Community Bonds: Create a welcoming space that brings together people from all ethnic backgrounds, fostering mutual understanding, cultural exchange, and social harmony.



Ensure Long-Term Sustainability: Secure a community-owned asset to reduce reliance on rented venues, enabling financial stability and strategic growth.



Promote Safety and Inclusion: Offer a safe, accessible environment where women and children feel valued, supported, and empowered.



Advance Economic Empowerment: Provide vocational training, enterprise support, and employment pathways to help women achieve financial independence and contribute to the local economy.

Mission statement

Empowering Women, Enriching Communities.

Our mission is to uplift and inspire women — particularly those from ethnic minority and vulnerable backgrounds — to participate confidently in society. Through education, advocacy, and community-led initiatives, we aim to dismantle barriers, promote inclusion, and unlock potential. We believe in the transformative power of diversity and strive to build a future where every woman feels seen, heard, and empowered to shape her own path and contribute meaningfully to the community.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is well-positioned to take ownership of Thornhill Community Centre under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which supports the transfer of public assets to community-led organisations that deliver inclusive, sustainable, and locally responsive services. Our organisation exemplifies these principles through its extensive experience working across Falkirk and its commitment to fostering empowerment, well-being, and social connection for all.

Although our roots lie in supporting ethnic minority women, our work has grown to encompass a wide range of communities across Falkirk, including families, young people, older adults, and individuals facing social isolation or economic hardship. We have delivered programmes in various neighbourhoods — from wellbeing and food support to youth engagement, digital inclusion, and intergenerational activities — always shaped by local needs and open to all, regardless of background, age, gender, or ethnicity.

Our experience working across Falkirk is a strength, not a limitation. It has enabled us to build strong relationships with diverse communities, develop adaptable service models, and gain deep insight into the challenges and opportunities facing different areas. We bring this knowledge and network to Thornhill, with a clear intention to collaborate with local residents, groups, and stakeholders to co-create a space that reflects their aspirations and priorities.

We have secured five years of unrestricted funding to support operational and repair costs, and we benefit from a large, active volunteer base that reflects the diversity of the wider Falkirk area. Our renovation plans — including solar panel installation, kitchen upgrades, and environmental enhancements — demonstrate our readiness to manage the building responsibly and sustainably. These improvements will ensure the centre is welcoming, accessible, and fit for purpose for all users.

Importantly, we maintain continuous dialogue with the communities we serve through surveys, open forums, and feedback sessions. This participatory approach ensures our services remain relevant and responsive. We are committed to extending this model to Thornhill, working in partnership with local people to ensure the centre becomes a vibrant, inclusive hub for everyone.

By acquiring Thornhill Community Centre, we will not only safeguard a vital community asset but also enhance its potential by drawing on our proven track record, inclusive ethos, and collaborative spirit. Our vision aligns fully with the goals of the Community Empowerment Act: to enable communities to shape their own futures and take ownership of the spaces that matter most to them.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is committed to building a model of community ownership that ensures its programmes and spaces are shaped by the people they serve. This approach goes beyond participation — it empowers individuals from all backgrounds to take an active role in decision-making, planning, and delivery. By involving local residents, volunteers, and partner organisations in shaping services, the group fosters a sense of shared responsibility, pride, and belonging. This inclusive model helps ensure that the group's work remains relevant, responsive, and rooted in the lived experiences of the community.

4.1.2 Why there is a need for your Project?

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group currently operates across multiple venues in Falkirk, including Westfield Community Centre, Thornhill Community Hall, Dalgrain Community Centre, and Trinity Church. While this flexible approach has allowed us to reach a wide range of beneficiaries, it also presents logistical challenges — including limited availability, fragmented service delivery, and the need to transport supplies between locations.

To address these challenges and better serve the community, the group is actively seeking to acquire a permanent base through the **Community Asset Transfer** process. Establishing a dedicated space would allow us to consolidate our programmes, expand our services, and create a welcoming hub that fosters inclusion, wellbeing, and community ownership.

We are open to exploring **collaborative opportunities** with other organisations who share our vision for a vibrant, inclusive community space. While past efforts to work with the former centre committee proved difficult, we are now engaging constructively with the current committee to identify shared goals and potential pathways forward.

Our aim is not only to secure a building, but to build a sustainable and inclusive future — one where the community has a permanent place to connect, grow, and thrive.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's future programmes are designed to create meaningful change across Falkirk by addressing both immediate needs and long-term empowerment. Initiatives such as the **Chat and Chai Café** and **Community Kitchen** will offer safe, welcoming spaces for affordable meals and social connection, helping to reduce isolation and food insecurity. These informal settings will also act as gateways to deeper engagement, allowing participants to build trust and confidence before accessing further support. Programmes like the **Wellbeing Workshops** and **Skills Exchange** will promote mental health, self-esteem, and practical skill development, empowering individuals to take active roles in their communities.

Importantly, the group's approach is inclusive and community wide. While its roots lie in supporting ethnic minority women, the planned programmes are open to **all residents**, regardless of age, gender, or background. The **Youth Engagement Programme** and **English Language/Digital Literacy Classes** will help bridge generational and educational gaps, equipping participants with essential life skills and fostering mutual understanding. By creating spaces where diverse groups can come together, learn, and support one another, the group aims to strengthen community cohesion and resilience across Falkirk.

The overall impact of these programmes will be to bring diverse communities together, break down social and cultural barriers, and tackle discrimination through shared experiences, dialogue, and inclusive participation. By fostering empathy, respect, and collaboration, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group will contribute to a more connected, equitable, and welcoming Falkirk for all.

We are seeking to acquire Thornhill Community Hall to establish a permanent, inclusive space that serves not only the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group but the wider Falkirk community. This centre will be a vibrant, welcoming hub where people of all backgrounds — women, families, young people, the elderly, and local organisations — can come together to connect, learn, and grow.

Thornhill Community Centre already hosts a variety of valuable activities, including Zumba classes, music lessons, art workshops, kettlecise, church-led sessions, and mental and emotional wellbeing programmes. We fully envisage these existing activities continuing and thriving. Our vision is to build on this strong foundation by introducing new programmes — such as affordable skills training, a community café, and expanded support services — that respond to emerging needs and reflect the evolving aspirations of the community.

Our plans are shaped by formal research, practical experience, and deep engagement with local residents. We understand the community because we are part of it — and we are committed to ensuring that the centre remains responsive, inclusive, and co-designed with those it serves. As needs change, so too will our offerings. This will be a living, breathing space that adapts to support wellbeing, opportunity, and unity.

In today's climate, where anti-immigrant sentiment has sadly gained traction across the UK — and where Falkirk has witnessed distressing incidents including attacks on local mosques — the need for safe, inclusive spaces is more urgent than ever. Our centre will stand as a symbol of solidarity and resilience, actively working to bring communities together, foster understanding, and promote social harmony.

This is not just about acquiring a building — it is about creating a shared asset that reflects the diversity, strength, and hope of Falkirk's communities. A place where everyone feels welcome, supported, and empowered to contribute.

4.1.3 Will any Development/changes/modifications to the asset be required?

Initial Development Plan

As part of its next phase of growth, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group will undertake a series of practical renovations and improvements to establish a fully functional and welcoming community centre. The development plan includes:

- **Installation of solar panels** to reduce electricity costs and lower the centre's carbon footprint, supporting both environmental sustainability and financial efficiency.
- **Repainting and decorating the interior walls**, featuring children's artwork to create a bright, uplifting atmosphere that reflects community spirit and creativity.
- **Full renovation of the kitchen** to support food-based programmes such as the Community Kitchen and Chat and Chai Café. This will ensure the space is safe, efficient, and suitable for preparing and serving meals to large groups.
- **Addition of indoor and outdoor planters** to bring natural elements into the centre, promoting a calming and pleasant environment for visitors and participants.

These tangible improvements will enhance the functionality, accessibility, and atmosphere of the centre, enabling the group to deliver its programmes more effectively and create a space that truly belongs to the community.

4.1.4 What activities will take place?

There is currently a number of different lets that operate from the Thornhill Community Centre — we aim to continue these lets for the foreseeable future. These types of let, are indicative of the types of services and activities, that are required by the local community.

Ongoing Programmes

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group currently delivers a range of weekly sessions tailored to the needs of different community groups:

- **Working Women Group – Monday evenings**

Designed for women in employment, offering a space to connect, unwind, and engage in personal development activities.

- **Aspiring Mums and Bairns Group – Wednesday afternoons**

Focused on skill-building and social support for mothers with young children.

- **Life Skills Building Group – Fridays**

Aimed at women facing language barriers, this group promotes confidence, communication, and essential life skills.

- **Youth Group – Friday evenings**

For girls aged 12+, offering creative, educational, and wellbeing-focused sessions in a safe and supportive environment.

- **Elderly Group – Weekly yoga sessions**

Promoting physical and mental wellbeing for older women through gentle movement and mindfulness.

Future Plans

In addition to the five weekly sessions currently delivered by the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group, our future plans for Thornhill Community Centre include a combination of new and existing activities that reflect the diverse needs of the wider community.

Proposed New Activities:

- **Chat & Chai Café** – A warm, affordable breakfast café for elderly residents and families.
- **Affordable Skills Lessons** – Community-led workshops in sewing, cooking, baking, crochet, and more.
- **Food Bank & Parcel Delivery** – Continued support for families facing hardship.
- **Catering Services** – A social enterprise offering training and income generation.
- **Seasonal Fun Days** – Inclusive events during school holidays.
- **English Language & Digital Literacy Classes** – Empowering individuals to engage confidently in society.

Existing Activities to Continue:

- Zumba classes
- Music lessons
- Art workshops
- Kettlecise fitness sessions
- Church-led classes
- Mental and emotional wellbeing programmes

As community needs evolve, we will remain responsive. Our programme will be shaped by ongoing dialogue with residents, ensuring that gaps are addressed and new opportunities embraced. This will be a shared space, co-designed with the people it serves.

1. Chat & Chai Café

The Chat & Chai Café will provide a welcoming and accessible space specifically designed for elderly individuals and families to socialize, relax, and enjoy breakfast and tea at reduced rates. By fostering a warm and inclusive environment, the café will encourage seniors to engage in conversations, share experiences, and develop meaningful social connections. Affordable pricing ensures broad accessibility, allowing all participants to benefit regardless of financial constraints.

2. Affordable Skills Lessons

The Affordable Skills Lessons program will provide accessible opportunities for individuals to learn practical and creative skills at minimal cost. Offerings include cooking (including international cuisines), baking, sewing, crochet, knitting, clay art, and other creative disciplines. Classes will be delivered by skilled community members operating small businesses and dedicated volunteers, ensuring high-quality instruction and active community engagement.

3. Food Bank and Parcel Delivery

The Rainbow Group has demonstrated sustained capacity in addressing food insecurity through the provision of both cooked meals and grocery distribution. During the Covid-19 restrictions, when access to community facilities was limited, members operated food banks from their homes and provided meals to asylum seekers with restricted access to resources.

At present, the group collaborates with Sustainable Thinking Scotland (Bo'ness) to distribute fresh produce, and with FareShare Central & South East Scotland (via Cyrenians' Good Food Programme) to collect and redistribute surplus food from supermarkets.

The proposed development seeks to expand this provision by establishing a food bank within the community hall kitchen, ensuring wider community access to essential food services.

4. Catering Services

The Catering Services programme will offer community-focused catering for events and activities, both generating revenue and providing practical skills training opportunities.

5. Seasonal Fun Days

Seasonal Fun Days will provide recreational and cultural activities during school holidays, designed to engage children, families, and wider community members.

6. English Language and Digital Literacy Classes

The English and Digital Literacy programme will provide structured learning opportunities to improve communication skills and digital competence for adults, particularly those from minority or disadvantaged backgrounds.

4.1.5. If the asset is to be used by the public, please provide details of lettings policy and opening times.

Pricing

Hall Let Prices

We have carried out extensive checks on the prices being charged by my main competitors and have based our prices on being competitive with them.

Main Hall	£15 per hour
Kitchen (Renovated)	£10 per hour
Pavilion1 (Multipurpose Room)	£12 per hour
Pavilion 2 (Meeting Room)	£10 per hour

Party Packages

Packages	Cost
Party Package 1 3 Hours Kitchen and Hall	£65
Party Package 2 3 Hours Kitchen, Hall and Inflatables	£100

Lessons Prices

Packages	Price per Lesson (1.5 hours)	Price per Block of 6 lessons (Full term)
Sewing Class	£20	£100
Crochet Class	£15	£65
Cooking Class	£18	£95
Baking Class	£18	£95

4.1.6 What provision will be provided for people with disabilities?

The community centre is all on one level, and the centre is fully accessible. We will ensure that all activities, where possible, are accessible by all.

4.1.7 Any other relevant information?

Current activities organised by the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group:

Educational Trips and Opportunities for Children

We organise enriching educational outings during school holidays to support learning and family bonding. Recent trips have included:

- Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh
- Dynamic Earth Edinburgh
- Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- National Galleries of Scotland
- Stirling Castle
- Gymnastics programme (5 months)
- Recycling and environmental awareness workshops
- NHS dental and hygiene education sessions

These activities provide children with hands-on learning experiences while fostering community connections.

Recreational Activities For Families

To support wellbeing and social inclusion, we offer recreational trips and events for families and volunteers, including:

- Beach trips to St Andrews and Ayr
- Visits to Blair Drummond Safari Park and Almond Valley
- Seagull Trust boat cruise
- Eid in the Park (annual event)
- Edinburgh Christmas Market
- St Andrews Day celebration

These outings help reduce isolation and offer families affordable opportunities to relax and connect.

Training/Awareness Opportunities for Women

We deliver targeted training and awareness sessions to empower women with practical knowledge and skills. These include:

- **Food Hygiene and Safety Certification**
- **Self-Defence Workshops** (with Scottish Centre for Personal Safety)
- **Additional Support Needs (ASN) Training**
- **Breast and Bone Health Awareness** (with Braveheart Association)
- **Democracy Workshop** (delivered by BEMIS Scotland)
- **Type 2 Diabetes Awareness**
- **Positive Parenting Courses**
- **Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Modules**

These sessions are designed to improve health literacy, safety, and confidence, while promoting informed decision-making and community wellbeing.

These programmes reflect the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's commitment to delivering inclusive, responsive, and empowering services for women, children, and families. By combining regular sessions, educational outings, recreational activities, and targeted training, the group continues to foster wellbeing, build confidence, and strengthen community ties.

Looking ahead, the group is eager to expand its work and deepen its impact, particularly within the **Thornhill Community Centre neighbourhood** and surrounding areas. Establishing a permanent base would allow for greater consistency, accessibility, and visibility of services. The group is actively engaging with the current centre committee to explore shared opportunities — recognising that previous efforts to collaborate with the former committee were challenging, but hopeful that renewed dialogue will lead to positive outcomes.

Benefits of the proposal

4.2 Please set out the benefits that you consider will arise if the request is agreed to.

Local Authorities are permitted to dispose of property at less than market value where there are wider public benefits to be gained. This is set out in the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010. These public benefits are listed below.

In this section, please explain how the project will benefit your community, and others. Please refer to the Scottish Government [guidance](#) on how the Council will consider the benefits of a request.

Please explain how the project will benefit your community by detailing how your project will promote or improve:-

4.2.1. Economic development/income generation

i.e. Please include details of any job creation or **volunteering and training** opportunities that will be available as a result of the Asset Transfer. Also details of how your organisation will involve the **local community** and of any incentives that may be available to encourage the local community to use the proposed services.

Community Benefit	Economic Development / Income Generation
Impact	We enhance employability among women by offering skill development and vocational training, leading to higher employment rates. Our reduced-price Skill Lessons offer individuals the opportunity to learn valuable skills at a significantly reduced cost, making education and personal development accessible to all. This includes a wide range of creative arts such as Cooking Classes for Global Cuisines, Crochet Classes, Knitting Classes, Sewing Classes, Clay Art Classes, and Baking Classes. These lessons are delivered by skillful community members running their small businesses and passionate volunteers who are happy to pass on their valuable hobbies for the welfare of the community. We create new jobs and stimulate local economies by encouraging and supporting women to start their own businesses. Ensuring fair wages for work done improves the economic conditions of families.
Impact	Women who earn and spend locally contribute to the economic vitality of their communities. We attract businesses and investments to the area by offering education and training, leading to a more skilled workforce. Promoting lifelong learning opportunities ensures that women can continuously improve their skills and adapt to changing economic conditions. Providing support services such as childcare and healthcare enables women to participate more fully in the economy. Empowering women economically reduces poverty levels and improves overall community wellbeing. Strengthening community ties through cultural and social activities creates a supportive environment for economic activities. Developing leadership skills among women leads to more effective community advocacy and economic planning. Our Skill Lessons help the community in several ways: gaining new skills enhances personal development and opens growth opportunities, both personal and professional. These lessons increase employability and empower women, lessons make creative education more accessible to individuals who might not otherwise afford such opportunities. Learning creative skills can help reduce stress, improve mental health, and boost overall emotional well-being by providing a platform for self-expression and relaxation. These lessons encourage social interaction and help create a sense of community, enabling individuals to connect with others who have similar interests and passions.
Benefit	£109,930

4.2.2. Regeneration

i.e. Please include details of whether your organisation will contribute to the **physical regeneration** of the area, and how your proposal will impact the regeneration of the area, in terms of volunteering or employment, giving examples.

Community Benefit Impact	Regeneration We are committed to revitalising our community building to create a vibrant hub for local activities and services. By making the building more energy-efficient, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint and lower energy costs. Enhancing the building's appearance will make it a welcoming and attractive space for all community members. We plan to help regenerate the nearby green spaces, creating beautiful and functional areas for recreation and relaxation. By bringing in investment into the community to help with community projects such as our community centre, and public spaces will enhance the quality of life and attract more residents and businesses. Promoting sustainable practices and green initiatives in and around the building will improve the local environment and attract eco-conscious businesses and residents.
Benefit	Engaging youth in educational and recreational programs will reduce anti-social behaviour and its environmental impact. Developing leadership skills among community members will empower them to take active roles in regeneration efforts. Ensuring that the voices of women and marginalized groups are heard in decision-making processes will lead to more inclusive and effective regeneration strategies. £57,646

4.2.3. Public Health

i.e. How likely is the proposal to improve the Public Health of the Community, in terms of physical and mental health, for example through volunteering, training, or taking part in activities, giving examples.

Community Benefit	Public Health
Impact	We empower women to make informed health choices by conducting health education workshops on topics such as nutrition, exercise, and disease prevention. Our Chat and Chai Café provides a welcoming space for elderly people and families to socialise and enjoy affordable tea and breakfast, reducing loneliness and enhancing mental well-being. It also offers financial relief during the cost-of-living crisis and strengthens social networks, especially for the elderly from all areas, including our ethnic minority community. We promote healthier lifestyles through campaigns on mental health, reproductive health, and chronic diseases. Our support groups help individuals manage stress and anxiety, while our stress management programmes, including mindfulness and relaxation exercises, improve overall mental wellbeing. Our Subsidised Skill Lessons make education and personal development accessible by offering creative arts classes at reduced costs. These lessons, delivered by skilled community members and volunteers, enhance personal development, reduce stress, improve mental health, and foster a sense of community. We promote healthy eating through cooking classes and nutritional education and encourage regular exercise with physical activity programmes. Our information sessions on prenatal and postnatal care ensure the health and wellbeing of mothers and babies. Our food bank and parcel delivery service, supports families and individuals with food provision. Continuing this service from the community hall will improve health, provide financial relief, and reduces food waste by distributing surplus food to deserving families. We engage in public health campaigns to address issues like smoking cessation, substance abuse, and domestic violence, and work with local health authorities to implement community-wide health initiatives.
Benefit	£225,223

4.2.4. Social Wellbeing

i.e. How will the proposal improve the Community's Social Well-Being and mental health, or how might it improve the learning offer and activities available in the area? Please give brief examples of these activities.

Community Benefit Impact Benefit	Social Wellbeing By organising social events and gatherings, we are able to foster a sense of community and belonging among members of our community, while encouraging volunteerism to enhance social cohesion and provide meaningful ways for individuals to contribute to their community. By establishing peer support groups we can provide emotional and practical support, helping individuals navigate personal challenges, and by creating mentorship programmes we can connect women with role models and advisers, fostering personal and professional growth. Hosting cultural celebrations and festivals we can promote cultural understanding and appreciation, strengthening community bonds, and offering recreational activities such as sports, arts, and crafts so as to improve mental health and provide opportunities for social interaction. Providing adult education classes can empower individuals with new skills and knowledge, enhancing their social and economic opportunities, and conducting workshops on various topics such as parenting, financial literacy, and personal development can improve overall wellbeing. Providing resources and support for parents can strengthen family units and improve child development outcomes, and offering affordable and accessible childcare services can enable parents to participate more fully in the workforce and community activities. We engage in advocacy efforts to address social issues and promote equality which can empower community members to drive positive change, and developing leadership skills among women can enhance their ability to advocate for themselves and their communities. £301,638
4.2.5. Environmental Wellbeing / Environmental Benefits	
i.e. Will the proposal bring green / environmental benefits and / or have an impact on the <u>local environment</u> ? Will it help mitigate the effects of climate change? If so please give details.	
Community Benefit Impact	Environmental Wellbeing / Environmental Benefits We are raising awareness and encouraging environmentally friendly behaviors by conducting workshops and seminars on sustainable living practices, such as reducing waste, recycling, and conserving energy. We will aim to directly improve the local environment by implementing initiatives like community clean-up days and recycling programs. Educating the community about energy conservation techniques and the benefits of using energy-efficient appliances reduces overall energy consumption.

Impact	Supporting the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, decreases reliance on fossil fuels and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which we will look to embed within our community building. Running campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation encourages more sustainable water use practices. Promoting the use of sustainable transportation options, such as biking, walking, and public transit, reduces air pollution and traffic congestion. Providing education on the impacts of climate change and ways to mitigate its effects empowers the community to act. Having a community building under community ownership means we can create a dedicated space for these activities, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. This enables us to have a greater impact on environmental wellbeing by providing a hub for sustainable initiatives and a place where the community can come together to learn, share, and implement eco-friendly practices. By working with other Third Sector organizations, such as Sustainable Thinking Scotland in Bo'ness, we distribute fresh produce among deserving families, and we collect food weekly from supermarkets to redistribute it to those in need. Having worked so well previously and currently with limited resources and space, the group aims to continue running the food bank from the community hall, which will be open for the wider community. This will positively impact on the community by providing nutritional support, offering financial relief to deserving individuals and families during the cost-of-living crisis, collecting surplus food and distributing it among deserving families.
Benefit	£81,777

4.2.6. Does your project contribute to the reduction of inequalities?

i.e. Will the proposal enable the community to access activities not otherwise available; will these activities be available at an affordable rate; how will your organisation work with other local providers to reduce inequalities?

While Falkirk hosts a number of community organisations and service providers, few are specifically tailored to the needs of ethnic minority women and families. Existing groups often focus on broader community engagement or single-issue support, such as food banks, youth services, or faith-based initiatives. These organisations may offer valuable resources, but they frequently lack the cultural sensitivity, language accessibility, and gender-specific programming that the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group provides.

The group's unique positioning — as a women-led, culturally inclusive organisation rooted in lived experience — allows it to fill a critical gap in local service provision. Rather than competing directly, the group seeks to complement existing efforts through collaboration, referrals, and shared use of space and resources. Its focus on empowerment, wellbeing, and social connection across diverse communities makes it a vital contributor to Falkirk's evolving support landscape.

4.2.7 Will local people be engaged in the use and management of the Asset?

A "community of interest" may not represent the people living near to the asset. Please provide evidence of how local people and communities will be engaged in the use and management of the asset, and how they have been consulted.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is committed to building a model of community ownership that ensures its programmes and spaces are shaped by the people they serve. This approach goes beyond participation — it empowers individuals from all backgrounds to take an active role in decision-making, planning, and delivery. By involving local residents, volunteers, and partner organisations in shaping services, the group fosters a sense of shared responsibility, pride, and belonging. This inclusive model helps ensure that the group's work remains relevant, responsive, and rooted in the lived experiences of the community.

Ownership will be encouraged through regular feedback sessions, community forums, volunteer development, and opportunities for co-designing activities. The group will also explore forming a community advisory panel to guide strategic decisions and ensure diverse voices are heard. Importantly, this plan is not limited to ethnic minority women — it is open to all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, or background. By creating space for collaboration and leadership across different groups, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group aims to strengthen social bonds, build local capacity, and promote long-term sustainability.

Ultimately, the community ownership model will help break down barriers, challenge discrimination, and bring people together around shared goals. It will transform the group from a service provider into a community anchor — one that reflects the values, needs, and aspirations of Falkirk's diverse population.

4.2.8 How will you monitor whether the Asset Transfer is benefiting the community?

ie. Will you survey the users / invite feedback / compare user numbers with a baseline etc

Measuring Impact

To ensure our services remain effective and responsive, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group will monitor hall usage and programme participation on a quarterly and annual basis, with the goal of increasing overall usage by 50% within the first two years. Attendance across all activities — including the café, workshops, and classes — will be tracked and evaluated against our organisational objectives to ensure alignment with our mission to engage and support the wider community.

We will maintain comprehensive records covering attendance figures, membership levels, social media engagement, and website traffic. In addition, we will assess our social impact by collecting demographic data of service users, gathering feedback on health and wellbeing outcomes, and documenting how our programmes contribute to reducing isolation and improving quality of life. This evidence-based approach will allow us to continuously refine our services and ensure they meet the evolving needs of Falkirk's diverse population.

4.2.9 Any other relevant information?

Impact of Future Programmes

The impact of our future programmes will be far-reaching — socially, economically, and emotionally. By combining new initiatives with existing community-led activities, we will create a centre that is inclusive, empowering, and resilient.

Social Cohesion & Community Building

Our centre will actively bring communities together, fostering understanding, solidarity, and mutual respect. It will be a place where difference is celebrated, and where people from all backgrounds can build relationships and find common ground.

Health & Wellbeing

Our programmes will support physical and emotional wellbeing through fitness classes, mental health workshops, and nutritious meals.

Economic Empowerment

Skills lessons and catering services will provide training and pathways to employment, helping individuals gain independence and contribute to the local economy.

Education & Inclusion

Language and digital literacy classes will empower people to access services and engage in civic life.

Environmental Sustainability

Our food bank and parcel delivery service will reduce food waste, and our renovation plans include solar panels and green spaces.

Restrictions on use of the land

- 4.3 If there are any restrictions on the use or development of the land, please explain how your project will comply with these.

Restrictions might include, amongst others, environmental designations such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI), heritage designations such as listed building status, controls on contaminated land or planning restrictions.

No known restrictions

Negative consequences

- 4.4 What negative consequences (if any) may occur if your request is agreed to?
How you propose to minimise / reduce these?

You should consider any potential negative consequences for the local economy, environment, or any group of people, and explain how you could reduce these.

Potential Negative Consequences

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has carefully considered the potential challenges of taking over the building through a Community Asset Transfer and has developed strategies to minimise their impact.

One major concern is the cost of necessary repair work. To address this, the group has secured unrestricted funding to cover running costs for the next five years, which can be allocated toward essential renovations. Additionally, high utility costs have been identified as a risk, but the planned installation of solar panels will significantly reduce long-term energy expenses and support environmental sustainability.

There is also a risk of insufficient demand to sustain hall usage and generate income. To mitigate this, the group will implement a strong outreach and marketing strategy, build partnerships, and offer flexible, inclusive programming to attract a wide range of users. The success of the proposal also relies heavily on volunteer involvement. Fortunately, the group already benefits from a large and active volunteer base, with most current activities managed by volunteers, and plans are in place to maintain and grow this support.

Operational concerns such as increased traffic and noise due to higher usage have also been considered. The centre's central location makes it accessible by public transport, and members are encouraged to carpool to reduce congestion. In the event of noise complaints, the group will take all concerns seriously and respond promptly with appropriate actions to maintain good relations with neighbours.

Capacity to deliver

- 4.5 Please show how your organisation will be able to manage the project and achieve your objectives.

This could include the skills and experience of members of the organisation, any track record of previous projects, whether you intend to use professional advisers, etc.

4.5.1 Has your organisation or any of its members managed projects or owned / leased property/land prior to this?

Yes ☒

No

The organisation has successfully managed a range of different projects in the past. The group has successfully organised, managed, and delivered educational trips during school holidays – from the Royal Botanic Gardens to Stirling Castle; and recreational trips for the whole family – from beach trips to Ayr and St Andrews, to a day spent at the Edinburgh Christmas Market.

Please provide details of:

4.5.2 Skills and experience of the members of the organisation

About Us

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group is a long-established, community-led organisation dedicated to supporting women and families across Falkirk and surrounding areas. Founded over two decades ago, the group has grown organically in response to the evolving needs of the local community, with a particular focus on those from ethnic minority backgrounds.

At its heart, the group exists to create safe, inclusive spaces where women can connect, learn, and thrive. Through a wide range of social, educational, and wellbeing-focused activities, the organisation fosters empowerment, reduces isolation, and promotes active participation in community life.

What began as a small grassroots initiative has developed into a trusted and respected charity, known for its welcoming environment, responsive programming, and strong community relationships. The group's work is driven by a deep understanding of the barriers many women face — whether cultural, linguistic, economic, or social — and a commitment to breaking those barriers through compassion, collaboration, and practical support.

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group continues to evolve, guided by its mission to uplift women, strengthen families, and build bridges across communities. With a growing membership, dedicated volunteers, and a clear vision for the future, the group is well-positioned to expand its impact and build a lasting legacy of inclusion and empowerment.

[NAMES REDACTED]

The Board of Trustees includes professionals and entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds, enabling well-rounded decision-making and strategic planning. Their experience in project management, budgeting, and stakeholder engagement ensures the charity operates efficiently and sustainably.

Trustees and volunteers alike are deeply committed to the charity's mission, often contributing their time and expertise outside of formal responsibilities. Their entrepreneurial insight and connections with local tradespeople also support the maintenance and enhancement of physical spaces used by the group.

Financial oversight is maintained through diligent record-keeping and collaboration with an external accountant to ensure compliance with OSCR requirements.

This collective strength — combining governance, operational capacity, and community dedication — positions the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group to manage future growth and the responsibilities of asset ownership with confidence.

4.5.3 Do you intend to use professional advisors? Please provide details.

We will carry out the necessary record-keeping/book-keeping for the centre. We instruct an Accountant to independently examine our accounts before we complete our annual Return with OSCR.

We will instruct a solicitor to negotiate our agreement with Falkirk Council.

We intend to instruct several surveyors, architects, etc, as the need arises.

4.5.4 Do you currently lease/manage a property from Falkirk Council? If yes, please provide details.

We do not currently lease or manage a property direct from Falkirk Council at present. We aim to take on an FRI Licence of the Thornhill Community Centre, which will give us invaluable hands-on experience of managing and operating a community asset.

4.5.4 Please detail how you plan to manage the building?

For example opening and closing the building / managing lets / will you have staff etc?

The centre will be managed by a dedicated group of volunteers, who will manage the opening and closing of the building, and booking of lets. The committee is considering funding a project worker post in the future, but in the interim all projects will be managed by the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group staff and volunteers.

4.5.5 Please provide any other information you think may be relevant.

Score (0-3)

- 3 = Significant experience and expertise.
- 2 = Some knowledge or experience.
- 1 = Interested in learning more.
- 0 = No knowledge or experience.

Skill Category	Description	Chair	Treasurer	Secretary	Vice Chair	Vice Treasurer	Vice Secretary
Governance	Understanding of charity governance, compliance, and legal responsibilities.	3	1	2	2	1	2
Finance	Financial management, budgeting, and understanding charity accounts.	3	3	2	2	3	2
Fundraising	Experience in raising funds through grants, events, or individual donations.	3	3	2	3	3	2
Legal Knowledge	Familiarity with charity, employment, and contractual law.	2	1	2	2	2	2
Strategic Planning	Ability to contribute to long-term strategy development and execution.	3	2	3	3	3	1
HR & People Management	Knowledge of recruitment, staff management, and volunteer coordination.	2	2	3	3	3	3
Marketing & Communications	Skills in PR, marketing strategies, and digital communication.	2	2	2	2	1	2
Community Engagement	Understanding of the needs of the local community and stakeholder management.	3	3	3	3	3	3
Digital & IT	Awareness of digital trends and IT solutions for charities.	1	1	1	1	2	2
Risk Management	Identifying and mitigating risks to the organization.	3	2	3	1	2	2
Leadership & Collaboration	Ability to work collectively, inspire others, and lead initiatives.	3	3	3	3	2	2
Total Score		28	23	26	25	24	23

Figure 5: Skills Audit

Awards and Recognition

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has consistently been recognised for its outstanding contributions to community development, inclusion, and wellbeing. These accolades reflect the dedication, innovation, and impact of our work over the past two decades.

- **CVS Falkirk Volunteer Engaging Organisation Award – Winner (2016)**

Honoured for our commitment to creating meaningful volunteer opportunities and fostering a culture of community-led service.

- **SCVO Scottish Charity Awards – Runner-Up (2017)**

Acknowledged as one of Scotland's most impactful charities, demonstrating excellence in grassroots leadership and programme delivery.

- **CEMVO Scotland Ethnic Minority Awards – Nominee (2018)**

Celebrated for our role in empowering ethnic minority women and promoting diversity and inclusion across Falkirk.

- **British Muslim Awards – Community Group of the Year Winner (2022)**

National recognition for our transformative work in bridging communities, supporting vulnerable groups, and championing social cohesion.

- **CVS Falkirk Volunteer's Week – Outstanding Achievement in Health & Wellbeing (2024)**

Awarded for our innovative and inclusive health and wellbeing programmes that have improved lives and reduced isolation.

These honours not only validate our mission but also inspire us to continue striving for excellence. They serve as a testament to the power of community-led action and the strength of women working together to build a better future.

Section 5. Level and nature of support

5.1 Please provide details of the level and nature of support for the request, from your community and, if relevant, from others.

This could include information on the proportion of your community who are involved with the request, how you have engaged with your community beyond the members of your organisation and what their response has been. You should also show how you have engaged with any other communities that may be affected by your proposals.

5.1.1. What community engagement has taken place to help develop your business plan? Please provide evidence, for example any completed surveys, questionnaires, letters of support, minutes of public meetings etc.

Community Engagement

The Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has cultivated strong, diverse community engagement over the past two decades, involving people of all ages, backgrounds, and faiths. Our programmes consistently attract high levels of participation, reflecting the trust and connection we have built within the community.

During the pandemic, our group played a vital role in supporting the wider community, and our annual Eid in the Park events have become a symbol of unity — bringing together people from different cultures and faiths in celebration and harmony.

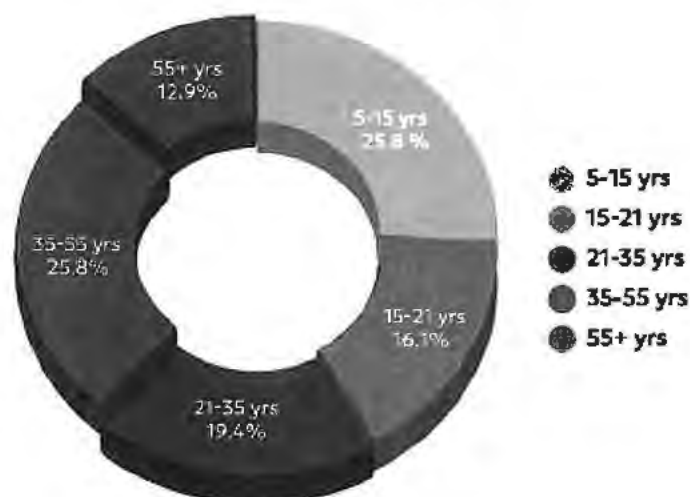
To inform our plans for acquiring Thornhill Community Centre, we conducted a community survey — shared both directly and via social media — to gather feedback from a broad cross-section of residents. The responses were overwhelmingly supportive, with many highlighting the need for a central, accessible space that could host a variety of activities and serve as a consistent point of connection.

We are committed to ensuring that the centre remains community-led and responsive. As needs evolve, we will continue to engage residents through surveys, feedback sessions, and open forums. Our goal is to create a space that reflects the community's voice — not just at the point of acquisition, but throughout its future.

In light of recent challenges — including rising anti-immigrant sentiment and distressing incidents such as attacks on local mosques — the importance of safe, inclusive spaces cannot be overstated. Thornhill Community Centre will be a place where people feel welcome, respected, and empowered. It will stand as a beacon of unity and resilience, actively working to bring communities together and promote social harmony.

Below are the stats of the active group members benefiting from the groups.

Community Engagement by Age Group



During the pandemic the group has worked actively for the wider community, hence there is a positive approach of the wider community towards the group.

In addition to this, the annual Eld in the Park event also engages people from from a wide range of backgrounds, therefore breaking the cultural barriers and bringing in social harmony.

To better understand the views and expectations of both our members and the wider community, we carried out a survey to gather feedback on the idea of acquiring a community building. The survey was shared directly with members and also posted on social media to reach a broader audience. This allowed us to capture a range of perspectives, ensuring that the voices of those who regularly engage with our work, as well as those who may benefit in the future, were heard.

How do you feel about the rainbow group acquiring its own premises to hold sessions and events?
Will you be able to attend more sessions if the location is central falkirk?

35 responses

Summary of Responses

The majority of respondents expressed strong support for the charity acquiring its own community building. Many highlighted that a dedicated, central location—particularly in Falkirk—would make it easier and more convenient to attend sessions, with improved access via local transport. Several participants noted that having all activities and resources in one place would increase attendance, encourage punctuality, and provide greater consistency in service delivery. Respondents also emphasized the social benefits, stating that such a space would help people meet, share experiences, and strengthen the sense of community.

Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the idea as exciting, helpful, and a valuable opportunity for the group's future.

what activities/programmes would you like to see if we have our own premises?

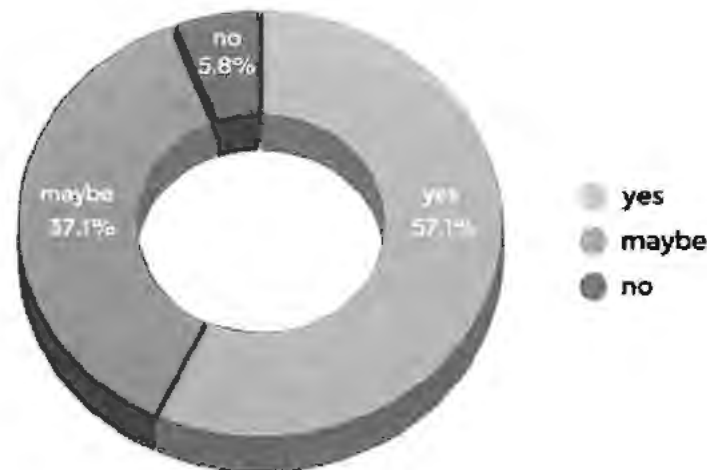
35 responses

Summary of Responses

Participants suggested a wide variety of activities for the new premises, with the most popular being yoga, exercise/fitness classes, cooking and baking sessions, crafts, and health and well-being workshops. Many also requested personal development opportunities, parenting sessions, and social gatherings such as tea/coffee chats. Some respondents emphasized the importance of children's activities during school holidays and weekend or evening events to make attendance easier for working families. Interest in outdoor activities, sewing/knitting, Zumba, and stalls or community events was also highlighted. Overall, responses show a strong demand for a mix of physical, creative, educational, and social activities, building on what the group already offers but with more variety, frequency, and accessibility.

Will it make a difference if there is a designated space for all sessions of the group?

35 responses



Survey responses gathered during the planning phase show strong support for the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's vision to establish a permanent community space. A significant majority of respondents expressed a clear need for inclusive, affordable, and culturally sensitive services in Falkirk, particularly those that promote wellbeing, social connection, and skill development. Many participants highlighted the importance of having a safe and welcoming environment where people from all backgrounds can come together, share experiences, and access support without barriers.

The feedback also revealed a strong appetite for the proposed programmes — including food provision, wellbeing workshops, youth engagement, and language/digital literacy classes — with respondents noting that these would fill critical gaps in existing local services. Importantly, the survey showed that the wider community, not just ethnic minority women, is eager to participate and contribute. This reinforces the group's commitment to inclusivity and community ownership, and confirms that the proposed centre has the potential to become a valued and unifying space for all residents of Falkirk.

Impact Statements from Users

The following impact statements reflect the voices of our users, highlighting the tangible outcomes and changes they have seen.

"The group has given me a place to look after my health through yoga and wellbeing sessions, but more importantly, it's where I've found friends and a real sense of belonging."

"I've learned new skills in the cooking workshops and met people I'd never have connected with otherwise; the group has made me feel part of a community."

"Before I joined the group, I often felt lonely and cut off from others. Taking part in activities like yoga and the coffee and chat sessions has given me a reason to get out of the house, meet new people, and build friendships. Having this safe and welcoming space has made a huge difference to my mental health. I feel happier, more connected, and supported by a community that understands me."

"Attending the sessions has improved my confidence and wellbeing, and I now feel less isolated because I have a supportive group around me."

Feedback from users highlights the transformative impact of the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group's services, with many expressing how the programmes have helped reduce isolation, build confidence, and foster a sense of belonging. Participants consistently noted that the group provides a safe and welcoming space where they feel heard, supported, and empowered. The activities have not only improved individual wellbeing but also strengthened community ties, creating opportunities for learning, friendship, and mutual support across diverse backgrounds.

5.1.2 Have you consulted with other local stakeholder groups or agencies? Please provide evidence.

We have worked with CVS Falkirk & District, who have supported the group with drafting the business plan, finances, governance support, amongst other things.

We maintain close contact with Falkirk Council around the provision of school holiday food and activities.

We have received a number of letters of support from Braveheart, FEL, Sustainable Thinking Scotland, and others.

5.1.4 Have you been in contact with any other communities or community groups that may be affected? Please give details.

We have engaged with the community, the current users of the centre, potential future users of the centre, and the current management committee of the centre.

5.1.5 Please provide any other information you think may be relevant.

[REDACTED]

Figure 6: Letter of Support



Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my strong support for the initiative by the Rainbow Muslim Women Group, a dynamic and dedicated women's group, to open a community multicultural hub. Having worked with the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group for several years, I have witnessed firsthand their unwavering commitment to empowering women, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and promoting social cohesion within our community.

The Rainbow Muslim Women Group has a proven track record of facilitating meaningful community outreach through various programmes, including educational workshops, health initiatives and cultural events. Their work has already played a pivotal role in bridging gaps between diverse groups, and I am confident that the establishment of a multicultural hub will further amplify their positive impact.

The proposed hub will not only serve as a welcoming space for Muslim women but will also be open to individuals from all backgrounds, offering a variety of activities that focus on cultural exchange, community building, and support services. This initiative will create an inclusive environment where individuals can engage, learn from one another, and share their diverse experiences, ultimately strengthening our community's social fabric.

I am particularly impressed by the leadership and vision demonstrated by the women of the Rainbow Muslims Women's Group. Their passion, organizational skills, and commitment to creating positive change make them exceptionally qualified to manage and operate such a hub. I believe their efforts will contribute significantly to the greater good of our community and beyond.

In light of the valuable work that the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has already accomplished and the potential impact of this new initiative, I wholeheartedly recommend their proposal for the multicultural hub. I am confident that it will be a vital resource that fosters unity, understanding, and support for all members of our diverse community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or

clarification. Sincerely,

Figure 7: Letter of Support

Figure 8: Letter of Support

[NAMES REDACTED]

Figure 9: Letter of Support

[NAMES REDACTED]

Section 6. Financial Viability of Project

Your Business Plan should contain full information about the financial viability of the project, evidencing that the organisation will be able to sustain the project in the long term.

Please submit

- at least 1 year's audited accounts to evidence your organisations financial stability (if available)
- where audited accounts are not available (for instance for new groups) please provide a bank statement.
- a projected 5 year income and expenditure account
- a cash flow forecast for the proposed asset transfer.

6.1 Please outline the Policies and Procedures your organisation has in place to govern the group's finances

We have submitted our accounts for all previous years that we have been operational to OSCR, complete and on time, as is required of registered SCIOs. Our finances are presented and scrutinised on a regular basis at our board meetings. We follow OSCR's Guidance and Good Practice for Charity Trustees (oscr.org.uk) to ensure we manage our finances correctly.

The rates for each of our spaces have been set for the coming year, and these will be reviewed yearly at our AGM.

Our 5-Year Cash Flow, accounts, have been submitted along with this application.

Income Forecast (Lets and Hires)

Lessons	Rate	Weekly	Yearly	Hire Income
Weekday Hires				
Main Hall	£15/hour	50*	2500	£37,500
Kitchen	£10/hour	20	1000	£10,000
Pavilion Room 1	£12/hour	10	500	£5,000
Pavilion Room 2	£10/hour	5	250	£2,500
Weekend Hires				
Package 1	£65/ 3hours	N/A	30	£1,800
Package 2	£100/ 3hours	N/A	25	£2,500
Pavilion Room 1	£35/3 hours	N/A	20	£700
Total per Year				£60,000

► Assumptions based on 42 hours per week usage of main Hall (as advised by the management committee) with a potential to increase to 50 hours. (50 weeks a year)

Our group activities to be held in Pavilion Hall when kitchen is not needed. Where our activities require kitchen usage (like cooking, baking classes and Breakfast Café) current hall users will be offered the renovated Pavilion Hall.

Weekend Hire's assumptions based on the availability of other community centres on weekends.

Profit Forecast (Chat & Chai Cafe)

Quarter	People attending per session	Price per breakfast	Cost per breakfast	Profit per Breakfast	Weekly profit	Quarterly Profit
Q1	30	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£150.00	£1,500.00
Q2	40	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£200.00	£2,000.00
Q3	45	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£225.00	£2,250.00
Q4	45	£4.50	£2.00	£2.50	£225.00	£2,250.00
Total Profit						£8,000.00

► Assumptions made on previous breakfast events arranged by the group.

Breakfast sessions will be run bi-weekly (Monday and Thursday from 9:30 – 12:30)

Estimated costs includes the direct volunteers' expenses.

We have conducted research into local breakfast prices and found that our reduced-price Breakfast Club offers meals at a rate substantially lower than the average cost of a dine-in breakfast in the area. While most sit-in breakfasts in Falkirk cost between £5.50 and £10.00, our café will serve a hearty, homemade morning meal for £4.50. This ensures our service remains affordable and accessible to the community, particularly for those affected by the rising cost of living.

Profit Forecast (Lessons)

Lessons	Max. Intake per Term (Persons)	Cost per Lesson	Cost per Term	Price per Term/Person	Income per Term	Profit per Term	Profit per Annum
Sewing	10	£55	£330	£100	£1,000	£670	£4,020
Crochet	10	£25	£150	£65	£650	£500	£3,000
Cooking/Baking	15	£20	£540	£95	£1,425	£885	£5,310
Total							£12,330

Section 7. Funding

7.1 Please outline how you propose to fund the price or rent you are prepared to pay for the land, and your proposed use of the land.

If you intend to apply for grants or loans you should demonstrate that your proposals are eligible for the relevant scheme, according to the guidance available for applicants.

7.1.1 Please show your calculations of the costs associated with the transfer of the land or buildings and your future use of it, including any redevelopment, ongoing, maintenance and the costs of your activities. All proposed income and investment should be identified, including volunteering and donations.

We have calculated the group's Board of Trustees volunteering hours based on monthly meetings of our board of trustees and all volunteering work carried out by the Board. A rate of £40/hour has been calculated, as illustrated in the appendices, for when the Board meets, and when individuals are acting in their capacity as a Trustee of the Board. We have also calculated the Volunteer hours based on the activities, events etc., that we have planned for the next few years, plus the day-to-day management of the hall.

Volunteering Hours	Rate	Hours	Year 1 Benefit	Year 2-3 Benefit	Year 4-5 Benefit
Board of Trustees	£40ph	1,560	£62,400	£131,428	£140,790
Volunteers	£12ph	3,016	£36,192	£76,214	£81,643
	Total	4,576	£98,592	£207,642	£222,433

Please see our Cash Flow for all our planned start up, ongoing, maintenance and planned redevelopment costs. Our Cash Flow also shows all proposed income and investment.

We aim to host fundraising events on a frequent basis to help generate additional income for the group.

All proceeds from lets will be used to continue our charitable purposes.

We recognise we will require a solicitor to review and negotiate the terms of our agreement.

7.1.2 Please supply details of what funding you have received so far, and of any conditions attached to it.

We have secured five years of unrestricted funding to support operational and repair costs, and we benefit from a large, active volunteer base that reflects the diversity of the wider Falkirk area. Our renovation plans — including solar panel installation, kitchen upgrades, and environmental enhancements — demonstrate our readiness to manage the building responsibly and sustainably. These improvements will ensure the centre is welcoming, accessible, and fit for purpose for all users.

This funding is from the Corra Foundation, supporting documentation will be sent with the application.

7.1.3 Please supply details of any funding you have applied for but have not yet received a response or decision. Please include timescales if known.

At present, we have no funding applications outstanding.

7.1.4 Details of any other funding you will have access to? i.e. voluntary contributions, borrowing etc.

We hold a significant level of reserves so that we are confident in our ability to take on the asset through community ownership.

Alongside the lettable income which will come from the centre, we also have our projected lesson and cafe income, we will also look to hold a number of fundraising events throughout the year, and we also welcome donations from the community, local businesses, and other groups. We receive regular donations from the community for the work that we do, and we do not foresee any reason why this would not continue.

As a SCIO, we will have access to all relevant financial products and services if required.

7.1.5 Please outline your funding strategy if you have one, as well as any other relevant information.

Past Funding Experience

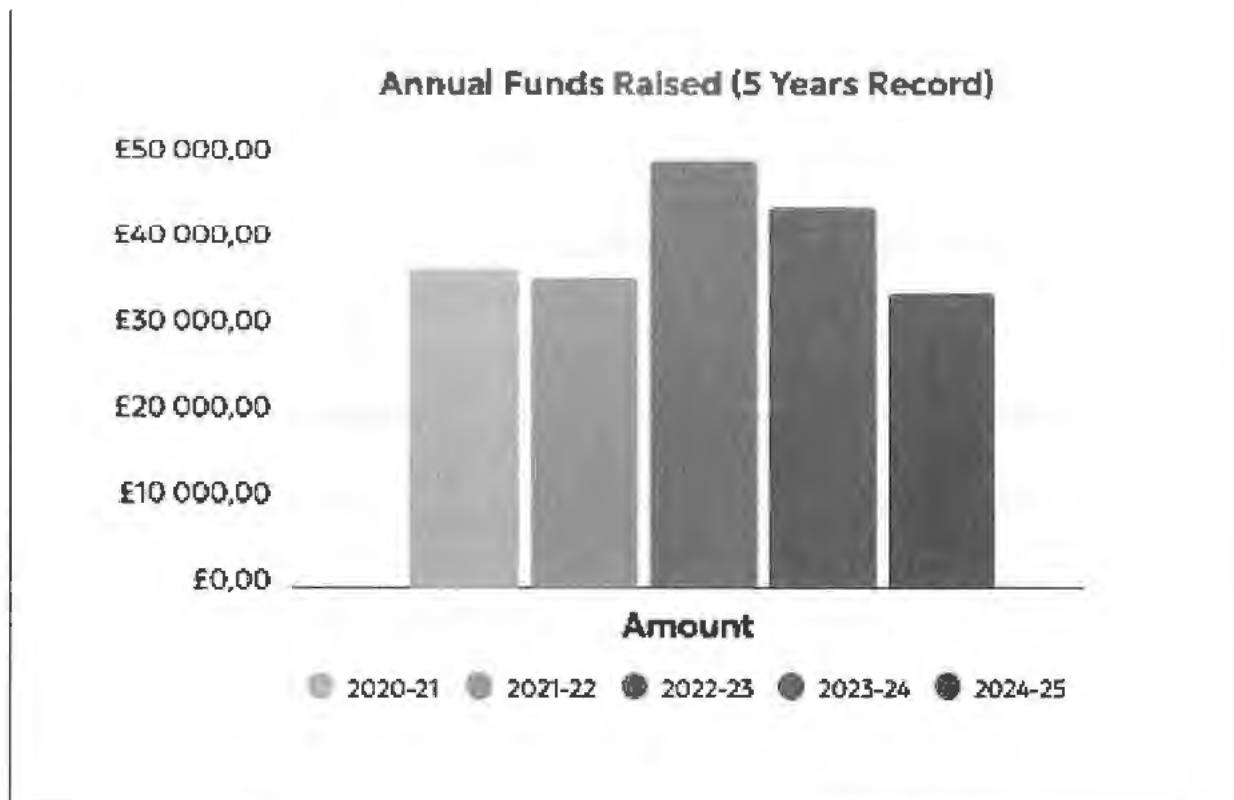
Over the past decade, the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group has built a strong and trusted reputation among funders, consistently securing vital financial support to deliver meaningful impact across the community. In the last five years alone, we have successfully raised £201,118.42 from a diverse range of partners, including national charities, local authorities, and individual donors.

Our three largest funders — **Corra Foundation, CVS Falkirk, and Falkirk Council** — have provided sustained support, recognising the value and effectiveness of our programmes. Their continued investment reflects confidence in our governance, delivery, and ability to reach underserved communities.

In addition to institutional grants, we have benefited from **public donations, sector-specific funding, and community-led fundraising efforts**, all of which have contributed to our financial resilience and programme expansion.

These funds have been strategically invested in initiatives that promote **social inclusion, mental and physical wellbeing, skills development, and community cohesion**. From educational trips and training courses to food provision and cultural events, our funding has enabled us to respond to real needs with practical, inclusive solutions.

Our consistent fundraising success demonstrates not only our operational capacity but also the strength of our relationships with funders and the wider community. It positions us well for future growth and for taking on the responsibilities of managing a community-owned asset.



Section 8. Enablement Fund

Falkirk Council will hand the building over wind and watertight and compliant. However, this is quite light-touch and would involve (for example) patching of a leaky roof. For more significant building works, groups can apply to the Enablement Fund, to pay for capital improvements such as energy efficiency improvements or larger capital renewals which support the viability of the project going forward. **Only capital items are eligible.** Running repairs are revenue costs and are not eligible. You are strongly advised to email strategicpropertyreview@falkirk.gov.uk to confirm eligibility criteria before you submit this application.

Requests to the Fund must be supported by estimates / quotations from professionals which should be provided as supporting documents.

Please provide details of your request to the Enablement Fund, if applicable.

Enablement Fund request for larger capital renewals which support the viability of the CAT		
Item	Estimate Provided By	Amount not more than (including VAT)
Solar Panels	[REDACTED]	£31,200
Kitchen Renovation	[REDACTED]	£17,400

Pavilion Renovation	[REDACTED]	£51,990
Total including VAT		£100,590

Checklist of accompanying documents

To check that nothing is missed, please tick which additional documents are accompanying this form.

- ☐ Section 1 – You must attach your organisation's constitution, articles of association or registered rules
- ☐ Section 2 – Any maps, drawings or description of the land requested
- ☐ Section 3 – Note of any terms and conditions that are to apply to the request
- ☐ Section 4 – Any additional evidence regarding your proposals, their benefits, any restrictions on the land or potential negative consequences, and your organisation's capacity to deliver.
- ☐ Section 5 – Evidence of community support
- ☐ Section 6 – Financial – Copies of accounts, forecasts, etc
- ☐ Section 7 – Funding – Copy of Business Case etc
- ☐ Section 8 – Enablement Fund – copies of estimates

Declaration

Two office-bearers (board members, charity trustees or committee members) of the community transfer body must sign the form. They must provide their full names and home addresses for the purposes of prevention and detection of fraud.

This form and supporting documents will be made available online for any interested person to read and comment on. Personal information will be redacted before the form is made available.

We, the undersigned on behalf of the community transfer body as noted at Section 1, make an asset transfer request as specified in this form.

We declare that the information provided in this form and any accompanying documents is accurate to the best of our knowledge.

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 30/09/2025

Position Chairperson

Signature [REDACTED]

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 30/09/2025

Position Treasurer

Signature [REDACTED]

EPIA Questionnaire

As a local authority, we must ensure that every decision that is made is inclusive of all the people that could be potentially affected. We have legal and moral duty towards the communities we serve, which is why we record and report on this information.

The Equality Act 2010 defines the characteristics that are protected from discrimination, such as age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Fairer Scotland Duty includes those who are affected by socio-economic disadvantage.

So that we can show the decision makers the impact your organisation has on local communities, we need to prepare an Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment as a critical part of the Community Asset Transfer process.

Please fill out the following questions and matrices to help us prepare an Equality and Impact assessment

In section 5.1.1 of the Request Form we have asked about community consultation activities conducted for this proposal. In following section we require numbers generated by your actions, or that are projected by your planned use of the asset in question.

Surveys - How many responses / hits did surveys conducted ref the transfer and subsequent / projected usage of the Asset generate in total? What was the split of positive to negative?

How was the engagement carried out?	Number of responses received	What were the results from the engagement? Please provide details including positive and negative feedback
Focus Group	☒ Over 80	When we first started the process of looking for a permanent base for our activities, we held discussions with each of our groups, to see if this was something that would benefit them. Over the course of the last few years, we have managed to discuss the plans with most of our groups, which includes our senior citizens yoga class; our working mums' group; mother and toddler group. All of the groups were positive about this plan, as the idea to move to a permanent home began with suggestions from our user groups, and their attendees.
Survey	☒ 53	We conducted a Facebook poll to ask the local community, and our user groups, if they support our plans for taking over the Thornhill Community Centre, through Community Asset Transfer. The results of the survey were mostly positive. The local community are in support of our aspirations of taking on community ownership with * votes in favour (*%). Evidence can be found within our appendices.

135

We conducted an online survey using Google forms, posted on our own Facebook page, as well as other local Facebook groups. We were able to gather 135 responses to allow us to engage with the local community, find out what activities local people would like to participate in as we go forward. We asked our local community what type of events and activities they would like to see. A sample can be seen within our business plan, with the full data in our appendices.

**Display /
Exhibitions**

☒ 20

We gathered feedback using our feedback board, where people were able to tell us what they would like to see at the centre going forward. We received around 20 ideas from those who engaged – from Zumba to baking, from Gymnastics to after-school clubs for kids. Book-bug sessions, dancing, ESOL classes, amongst others, were also suggested.

We will continue to use this feedback to attract new lets in order to provide a regular and sustainable income stream.

User Panels

☐

Public Event

☒ 80

We hosted an open day when we took over the running of Thornhill Community Centre.

We had over 80 people attend on the day.

We conducted a number of verbal feedback sessions with the attendees, who provided us with lots of information of what they would like to see take place in the centre in the future. During these informal verbal feedback sessions, many of the attendees were asking for a space that could offer teas, coffees, cake, etc, to allow them to meet up with other members of the community that was cost friendly. Other suggestions were for hosting events that would bring in animals for kids to interact with, from farm animals to birds of prey. Many of our senior citizens who attended, were looking for yoga sessions, that would be suitable for their abilities and needs. Other ideas which came up, was to host a car boot/market-stall type event.

We also had a board (as mentioned above) where attendees were able to put up suggestions of what they

would like to see within the centre (we have attached a photograph of our board to this form.)

Other: please specify

Any other information about surveys _____

How many statements, comments or letters of support were generated by Surveys, Discussions, Meetings or other means of gaining the opinion of the public? Please attach evidence of these.

We received 8 formal letters of support, including from: Fairer Falkirk; Braveheart; The Conservation Volunteers (TCV); Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC); Forth Environment Link; Avonbridge Community Association; Sustainable Thinking Scotland CIC; and Causeway Music Project. The Business Plan appendices contain the letters in full.

How many separate groups / sports teams will use the asset once transferred? Please list all user groups, activities and separate teams.

Confirmed/continuing external groups at point of transfer: at least 6 distinct providers (listed below), with additional capacity for more lets as demand grows. We will publish a public timetable and maintain an open bookings register.

- Existing activities to continue (external lets): Zumba classes; Music lessons; Art workshops; Kettlecise sessions; Church-led sessions; Mental and emotional wellbeing programmes.
- RMWG-facilitated open-access activities: Chat & Chai Café (affordable breakfast, open to all); Affordable Skills Lessons (sewing, cooking, baking, crochet); English Language & Digital Literacy classes; Community events/seasonal fun days; Food bank and parcel delivery service.
- Private one-off hires and community markets/meetings (as per fair booking policy).

How many service users in total are projected for the Asset post transfer?

We estimate that the facility will be used by 200 people from other user groups per week.

People with protected Characteristics

We need to evidence how many people with protected characteristics will be impacted by the asset transfer to illustrate the scale of the benefit to the decision makers.

This section also allows you to consider other factors that could impact users, for example a specific service or team designed for those with a specific need.

Protected characteristic / other factors	Name of groups / activities	Approx. no of participants
We have identified the numbers of people with protected characteristics who will be impacted by the asset transfer below, largely drawing on our experience from the previous year to accurately predict annual numbers in the future and open achieving our Community Asset Transfer, as well as the numbers of our own groups and activities that will move to the centre as their permanent home.		
Age	Children and Young People The community centre engages children and young people aged 0-3 years of age in a range (at present) which is the pre-school aged group for under 3s. We currently host a youth group on the weekend, for high school children. (15) We have a Wednesday group for mothers and toddlers, during school hours, where the kids can come and play. (8-10) We have a Friday group which is attended by primary-aged children with their parents. (15) During the school holidays, we host a number of out of school groups for school-aged children, which are always well attended. We see upwards of 50 CYP attending during these events. We plan to host a social event at each of the school holidays for school-aged children, which will consist of a mixture of food, games, music, etc. We also want to highlight the value of our activities in the context of youth work and diversionary activity. With few youth clubs or traditional youth work provision outwith school hours left in the community, taking part in regular social activities with the support of trusted adults as volunteers is a valuable opportunity for young people that will be protected for the future with the achievement of our Community Asset Transfer. Older People Currently there are lets from the following groups who offer the activities for older people in the community. Our aim is to continue these classes	15 under 3s 40 CYP per week (children and young people). (Over 50 during school holidays) 60 people over 60 per week

	and activities which will benefit the older people within our community. We do not currently have access to the exact number of attendees at present, but we are aware that a number of those people are over the age of 60. Currently we hold a number of events for our older community members: Yoga – 15 over 60 Coffee morning – up to 40 over 60 We aim to start more classes once the asset transfer is approved. This would consist of the following: Gentle exercise classes – 15 over 60 Digital Learning – 16 over 60 Crafting Classes – 10 over 60	
Sex	Our Centre is open all, including girls and women. We estimate that currently we will have a 20/80 split between males and females. We also host a number of women only groups: Yoga – 15 Working Mums – 30 Mum and toddler – 20 The Friday Group – 20	40 Girls and Young Women. 85 women per week.
Ethnicity	Our Community Centre welcomes all regardless of their ethnicity. The groups that we host at present are open to all, although we do tend to find that the majority of attendees have an ethnic minority background.	110 from BAME backgrounds.
Religion / Belief / Non-belief	We don't keep a record of the religion/belief/non-belief of any users of our Community Centres. We maintain a supportive and inclusive environment where people can use the services available at our community centre regardless of religion/belief. There is a church group who meet every Sunday within the community centre.	See response to the left.

Sexual orientation	Sexual orientation is not a relevant factor in the delivery of our group's activities. We maintain a supportive and inclusive environment where people can use the services available at our community centre regardless of sexual orientation or other characteristics.	See response to the left.
Transgender	Transgender identity is not a relevant factor in the delivery of our group's activities.	See response to the left.
Pregnancy / Maternity	We will be open to offering our space to any Pre/Postnatal support. We have a number of attendees who in the time that they have attended our groups or events, who have been pre/postnatal, and there is always support there. We have plans in the future to offer specific pre/postnatal classes.	See response to the left.
Marriage / Civil Partnership	This is not relevant for our organisation. The centre is open to everyone, regardless of their marital status, whether in a marriage, civil partnership, or neither.	See response to the left.
Disability	The services at our community centre will be open to all regardless of any disabilities. We will ensure all spaces within our community centre are accessible to all. Our centre is open to all regardless of ability. We also recognise that some disabilities can be 'hidden' or not disclosed to us due to personal preference of an individual or family. We observe that being part of services at our centre and doing regular physical activity helps individuals to overcome some of the issues they experience as a result of their disability. We have hosted a training course for anyone to attend based around neurodiversity awareness, and our aim is to host similar training in the future.	See response to the left.
Poverty	Our group takes steps to ensure as far as we can that poverty is not a barrier to participation in our activities. All of our activities and events are free to attend. We are opening a food pantry service for the local community, that will aim to help alleviate poverty within the local community.	We don't record these numbers as we don't ask user groups Estimate 40 families will benefit from

		the pantry service
Care Experienced	We do not expect CYP, families, or individuals, to disclose if they are care experienced in order to attend any activities within our centre. If we are made aware that a young person, or other individual, attending the centre is care experienced we will support them appropriately, deciding what this means on a case-by-case basis and recognising that all young people, and circumstances, are unique.	We don't record these numbers as we don't ask user groups
Other		

Potential examples: **Age** - Baby & toddler groups; **Ethnicity** - ESOL groups; **Religion / Belief / Non-belief** - Church groups, **Poverty** – Foodbank

Equality & Accessibility Statement

Rainbow Muslim Women's Group (RMWG) is committed to open and equal access to Thornhill Community Centre for all members of the public. We comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the Fairer Scotland Duty and will ensure our decisions, policies and practices eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. All activities and lets are offered on a fair, transparent basis irrespective background. Given Thornhill's location within an area of higher deprivation (SIMD low decile), pricing, outreach and programme design explicitly address socio-economic disadvantage while remaining open to everyone.

Compliance, Governance & Safety

- Legal form: SCIO (No. SC047758). Public Liability Insurance: £2m.
- Safeguarding: PVG where required; risk assessments and incident reporting; health & safety and food hygiene controls.
- Fair Booking & Pricing: Transparent, published room rates; equitable allocation for secular/faith and mixed/women-only sessions; no exclusive membership barriers.
- Co-design & Accountability: Regular feedback boards, open forums and an advisory panel (including local residents) to guide decisions and ensure responsiveness.

Monitoring & Reporting

We will monitor participation and hall usage quarterly and annually (attendance, demographics via optional anonymised forms, outcome feedback on isolation, wellbeing, and skills). KPIs include overall usage (+50% within two years), affordability reach (concession uptake), and lettings diversity (range of external groups). Findings will be reported to trustees and shared with stakeholders.

Location-Specific Need (Thornhill, Falkirk)

Thornhill sits within a low SIMD decile. Our model directly mitigates socio-economic barriers through affordable pricing, free/low-cost activities, food support, and skills/ESOL/digital provision while remaining open to everyone. Continuation of existing lets safeguards current community provision, and additional

Formal Response – Rainbow Muslim Women’s Group (RMWG)

Community Asset Transfer Application – Thornhill Community Centre

1. Current SCIO Constitution

RMWG is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) under charity number SC047758.

Following consultation with our membership, a resolution was passed to amend the constitution to include the clause required under Section 80 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: “The organisation must not have fewer than 20 members.”

- This amendment has been submitted to OSCR for their records.
- Revised constitution attached.

2. Three Broad Uses

The centre will remain a community hub for public benefit, not an exclusive space. Proposed allocation is shown below (Example figures):

Use Category	Hours/Week (Example)	% of Total (Example)	Notes
Headquarters (Office)	10	12%	Reserved for admin only
Current Lets	42	50%	Existing classes continue
Ad-hoc Hires	32	38%	Open for community events

Spaces Not Bookable: Only the office will be reserved for operational purposes.

All other spaces (Main Hall, Pavilion Rooms, Kitchen) will remain available for community hire. Inclusivity Commitment: All programmes and hires will be open to everyone, regardless of ethnicity, faith, or gender. Existing activities will continue, and new programmes will welcome all.

3. Consequence if CAT is Not Awarded

RMWG has already taken on a short-term lease of Thornhill Community Centre, which has been a significant investment for the group. This experience, whilst not without its challenges, it has however:

- Raised our profile and demonstrated our ability to manage a public asset.
- Increased responsibility and aspirations as members of a marginalised community (ethnic minority and women).

If CAT is not awarded:

- It will be an incredibly negative outcome, undermining efforts to challenge marginalisation and promote equality.
- Our ability to deliver inclusive programmes will be severely restricted.
- The opportunity for growth and success—aligned with the spirit of the Community Empowerment Act—would be lost.

4. Trustee Experience

Name	Role	Other Community Roles / Achievements	Notes
[REDACTED]	Chair	Lifetime Achievement Award; 25+ years volunteering	Example
[REDACTED]	Treasurer	Active in local business networks	Example
[REDACTED]	Vice Chair	30 years running community-focused business	Example
[REDACTED]	Vice Treasurer	Worked with multiple third-sector organisations	Example
[REDACTED]	Secretary	Experienced in community event coordination	Example

* References: Available from CVS Falkirk, Braveheart Association, and other partners.

5. Enablement Fund

Importance: Enablement funding is critical for capital works (solar panels, kitchen upgrade, pavilion renovation).

Other Pathways: We will also explore alternative funding streams such as National Lottery Community Fund, Robertson Trust, Corra Foundation, and community fundraising.

Enablement funding remains the cornerstone for making the centre safe, energy-efficient, and fit for purpose.

6. Community Engagement

Survey Results: 35 responses; 57% strongly support acquisition; 37% "maybe."

Events:

- Open Day (October): Although attendance was limited, it provided valuable feedback and visibility.

- Eid in the Park: Annual event attracting diverse communities.

Letters of Support: Attached from Fairer Falkirk, Braveheart, Sustainable Thinking Scotland, and others.

This demonstrates alignment with Clause 5.15 of CAT Guidance: our proposal is judged on benefits delivered, and we have sought support from the local geographic community.

7. New Activities

Activity	Target Audience	Notes
Chat & Chai Café	Elderly residents, families	Example
Affordable Skills Lessons	Women, unemployed individuals	Example
Food Bank & Parcel Delivery	Vulnerable families	Example
Catering Services	Local community	Example
Seasonal Fun Days	Children, families	Example
English & Digital Literacy Classes	Adults seeking skills	Example

All programmes are open to the public, not limited to RMWG members.

8. Statutory Compliance

We will liaise with CVS Falkirk to obtain accurate estimates for:

- Emergency lighting
- Fire safety checks
- Legionella testing
- PAT testing

These will be incorporated into revised financial projections.

9. Previously Undertaken Projects

Project	Duration (Example)	Notes
Food Hygiene & Safety Certification	Ongoing since 2018	Example
Self-Defence Workshops	3 months (2023)	Example
ASN Training	Annual since 2021	Example
Breast & Bone Health Awareness	Quarterly since 2020	Example
Democracy Workshop	Delivered in 2022	Example
Type 2 Diabetes Awareness	Annual since 2020	Example
Positive Parenting Courses	Annual since 2020	Example
Healthy Eating & Physical Activity	Ongoing since 2019	Example
Social outings & educational trips	Regular since 2017	Example

10. Continuity of Membership

Name	Role	Years of Service (Example)	Notes
	Chair	20 years	Example
	Treasurer	10 years	Example
	Vice Chair	8 years	Example
	Vice Treasurer	6 years	Example
	Secretary	5 years	Example

Committee Renewal:

- [REDACTED] was in the process of stepping down but was urged by members to stay and help navigate the CAT process.
- The constitution and governance model allow any member to join the committee and play a strategic role.
- Having a permanent base will encourage fresh faces and succession planning, ensuring sustainability and diversity in leadership.

Public Benefit Statement

Thornhill Community Centre will remain a shared public space, managed by RMWG but accessible to all. Our inclusive ethos and proven track record of serving diverse communities ensure that the centre will deliver social cohesion, wellbeing, and opportunity, fully aligned with the objectives of the Community Empowerment Act.

Alignment with CAT Guidance

Under Part 5 of the *Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015* and its associated guidance for relevant authorities, asset transfer requests must be assessed based on the benefits they deliver—such as economic development, regeneration, public health, social wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and the reduction of socio-economic inequalities.

RMWG's application aligns strongly with these principles. By acquiring Thornhill Community Centre, RMWG will establish an inclusive community hub offering affordable skills training, health and wellbeing programmes, food security initiatives, and digital literacy classes—all accessible to the wider public. These initiatives directly address local deprivation, promote equality, and foster community cohesion, fulfilling the Act's core aim of empowering communities to shape their own futures.

Awarding the CAT to RMWG enables Falkirk Council to meet its statutory obligations under the Act by supporting a community-led organisation with a proven track record of serving diverse populations beyond its own membership. This decision would demonstrate the Council's commitment to equality, inclusion, and community empowerment.

Furthermore, it provides a marginalised group—ethnic minority women—with the opportunity to manage a public asset for the benefit of all, ensuring that Thornhill Community Centre remains a shared, welcoming space for the entire community. Approving this transfer not only ensures compliance with legislative requirements but also unlocks the full potential of the centre as a sustainable, vibrant hub delivering long-term public benefit.